

Newsletter of Compassionate Crusaders Trust



# ANIMAL CRUSADERS

**Commemorative Issue October 2010**

Stop telling the world how big the STORM is



Instead tell the storm how big your WORLD is



In view of the encouraging reviews  
and feedback on our  
official quarterly newsletter  
**ANIMAL CRUSADERS**,  
we are making this issue a  
Special and Commemorative one.

It would be a  
collectors' item for those  
with a vision of  
creating a compassionate world!

Compassionate Crusaders Trust

The secret of a good sermon  
is to have a good beginning  
and a good ending;  
and to have the two as close  
together as possible.

George Burns



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# Maa



শ্রী মায়ের এই মাতৃক জগৎ বহির্ভূত ছিল না, তাঁর করুণা গৃহপালিত পশুপাখী জীবজন্তুর জন্য ও উৎসারিত ছিল। পোখা চন্দনা 'গঙ্গারাম' সকলের মতো তাঁকে ডাকতঃ 'মা ও মা।' মা - ও উত্তর দিতেনঃ 'যাই বাবা, যাই।' এই বলে পাখীকে ছোলা-জল দিয়ে আসতেন। কারণ পাখীর মাতৃ-সম্বোধনের অর্থই হল, তাঁর খিদে পেয়েছে! বেড়াল মায়ের মেহমত্রে বংশবৃদ্ধি করত নির্ভয়ে। অন্যেরা বেড়ালের দৌরাহাে বিরক্ত। তাদের খুশী করতে মা মাঝে মাঝে দুম করে লাঠি তুলে নিতেন হাতে। কিন্তু ভীত বেড়াল আশ্রয় নিত মায়ের পায়ে। মা-ও সঙ্গে সঙ্গে লাঠি ফেলে দিতেন। জনৈক সাধু একবার জিজ্ঞাসা করেছিলেন, 'তুমি কি সকলেরই মা?...' এই সব ইতর জীবজন্তুর ও, মা উত্তর দিয়েছিলেন, 'হ্যাঁ, ওদেরও।'



"They too, are created by the same loving hand of God which created us... It is our duty to protect them and to promote their well-being." ~ Mother Teresa



# Gandhi Jayanti



1, 2 & 3 Dignitaries as judges & moderators  
4 view of the stage  
5 Commemorative Souvenir  
6 view of the stage



Don't look down on someone unless you're helping him up.





# Gandhi Jayanti



1



2



3



4

- 1 & 6 Debate Pix
- 2 & 5 Performance by the children of Chetla Krishti Sansad
- 3 Launching of Compassionate Crusaders Club for Students by the then Mayor.
- 4 Media Clippings
- 6 Debate Moderator



5



6





# Early Days




Sibelius famously remarked to his fellow composer Bengt von Törne: "Never pay any attention to what critics say. Remember, a statue has never been set up in honor of a critic!"



# Gandhi Jayanti

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice  
Altamas Kabir.



Gandhiji - A few random thoughts

This century has seen many great men and women, but there are few, such as Mohandas Karanchand Gandhi, who have left an indelible mark on the minds of men and women and whose thoughts and deeds are even more relevant today than before.

Gandhiji was a man of peace, whose actions and beliefs were a reflection of his philosophy, both political and otherwise. Amongst other ideals, he believed in Ahimsa and non-violence which formed the basis of his experiments with various concepts such as Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience, Passive Resistance, Swadeshi, etc.

In his experiments with truth, Mahatma Gandhi strongly felt that without Ahimsa it is not possible to seek Truth. They are like the two sides of a coin- Ahimsa is the means and Truth the end. Gandhiji also felt that the very first step in non-violence is to cultivate truthfulness, humility, tolerance and compassion in our daily lives, since nothing fruitful or enduring could be built on violence while non-violence could radically transform society and its way of thinking.

The above philosophy was in ample evidence during our freedom struggle and, although, initially many derided Gandhiji, ultimately, there was tremendous response to Gandhiji's call to the path of non-violence amongst all sections of society and the same played a large part in securing to us our freedom from the British.


Contd....2.

First they ignore you,  
then they ridicule you,  
then they fight you,  
then you win.

Mahatma Gandhi



Hon'ble Justice Altamas Kabir enjoying the Gandhi Jayanti programme



- 2 -

The methods adopted by Gandhiji in pursuing his path of non-violence to secure our independence included passive resistance, fasts and hartals which have been adopted today as an accepted mode of collective bargaining in different walks of life.

Martin Luther King Jr. said of Gandhiji that he was probably the first person in history to lift the love ethics of Jesus Christ above mere interaction between individuals to a powerful and effective social force on a large scale.

To Gandhiji non-violence was superior to violence and forgiveness more manly than punishment. He often said that Truth was his religion and Ahimsa the only way of its realisation. Gandhiji's thoughts and ideals are becoming more and more relevant in today's strife-torn world.

It has been said of Gandhiji that there was a mirror in him in which everyone could see the best in himself. Gandhiji's way of life and ideals prompted one of the other great men of this century, Albert Einstein, to say- "Generations to come will scarcely believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth".

Gandhiji's ideas of compassion and love may well be extended to our interaction with the animal world, more so, as they are unable to speak for themselves. I understand that the Compassionate Crusaders Trust is working towards that end.

I wish the Trust all success in their endeavours.

*Altamas Kabir*



# Encouragers



1. Late Vinod Kr Neotia with Governor Mr. Viren J Shah & Mrs. Anjana Shah
2. Jennifer Butt, RSPCA, UK
3. Mr. Douglas G. Kelly, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate, Kolkata
4. Dr Manu Chandaria, Nairobi, Kenya
5. Mr. Syamalendu Chakrabarti, UK, Ex-Director, AcelorMittal
6. Mr. Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Ex-Governor & Mrs. Tara Gandhi
7. Mr. Rex Moser, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate, Kolkata

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is within your power to act.





# Encouragers



1. General Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Ex-Chief of Indian Army
2. Dr. (Mrs.) Sarala Birla
3. Mr. Basant Kumar Birla & Dr. (Mrs.) Sarala Birla
4. Mrs. Sujata Sen, Director, British Council
5. Justice Dilip Kumar Basu, Retired Judge, Calcutta High Court

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.





# Campaigns

Be compassionate towards animals.



If you see instances of animals being ill treated, Call: 24647030



ISSUED IN ANIMAL WELFARE BY COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST

A STREET MUTT TO YOU ....  
..... SOMEONE'S BEST FRIEND.



Treat strays with love.



ISSUED IN ANIMAL WELFARE BY COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST

Lots of people talk to animals...  
Not very many listen though.  
To give them a helping hand.  
Call 24647030




ISSUED IN ANIMAL WELFARE BY COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST



globalwarming

ACT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

Join us.




Kindness costs nothing!  
So be kind to animals.  
Provide them with a home.



Call 24647030 for assistance.



ISSUED IN ANIMAL WELFARE BY COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST



Want to help an animal in distress?  
Call for assistance @ 24647030



ISSUED IN ANIMAL WELFARE BY COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST



Our lives begin to end the day we remain silent about things that matter.





# Compassionate Statesman

What wisdom can you find  
that is greater than kindness?

Jean Jacques Rousseau



**Jyoti Basu**  
8 July 1914 ~ 17 January 2010

*Jyoti Basu*

Indira Bhawan  
Delhi  
Kolkata-700 064  
Phone : 2334 4700  
Fax : 2339 4700

Dear Shri. Debasis Chakrabarti,

I am in receipt of your letter regarding your program but because of my health conditions I am unable to be present. Someday we may have a discussion on the objective which you have set for yourselves. As religions are involved in such practices complications may arise. I am keen to know however about the success of your program.

Wishing you all Success,

Yours Sincerely,

*Jyoti Basu*  
(Jyoti Basu)



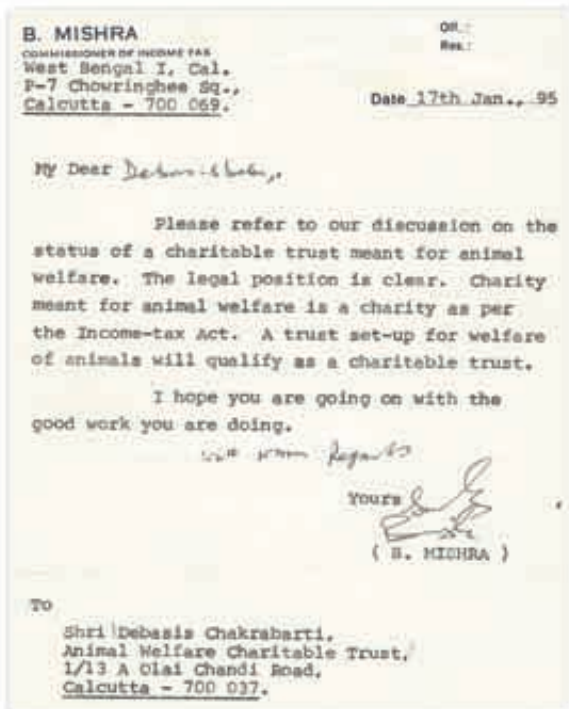
Shri Jyoti Basu,  
however, visited us  
on 25th July, 2006



# Early Days



Searching for Karuna Kunj land - Mrs Majeda Islam



All growth is a leap in the dark, a spontaneous, unpremeditated act without benefit of experience. ~ Henry Miller



## The moment.... and the glory!

In the Masai Mara, Kenya, end of August 2009, after photographing the crossing of the wildebeest and zebra, at a particular point of the Mara river, and with the savage attacks on them by crocodiles, I was returning back to camp in an open land rover when my driver, who with his binocular vision, pointed out a leopard with its kill on the higher branches of a tree hundreds and hundreds of yards away. As the land rover slowly approached the tree to within a hundred yards, this leopard got visibly agitated by my presence and decided to descend from its tree branch and seek the sanctuary of another tree

elsewhere. I was shooting a Nikon D3X with a 600 mm Nikon lens and I filmed a sequence of photographs of the leopard gathering its kill in its mouth, climbing down the tree (the award winning photograph) and come running, funnily enough, right towards my land rover and pass me with the kill in its mouth – a total of about may be a dozen frames.

I had been fortunate enough to see leopards climbing up a tree with their kill and also eating their kill in the branches of the tree – in fact in the Sabi Sands area in South Africa, I photographed a

large male leopard directly from my open land rover perhaps 12 feet directly above me, gorging on its impala kill, while the hyenas, scavenged, around my vehicles waiting for the crumbs to fall – in fact I had to lie down on the floorboard of the land rover to photograph.

With enough time and luck one may see leopards climbing up or in the branches of the trees with their kill, but to see and also photograph a leopard coming down the tree with its kill is extremely rare and photographic opportunity to be taken without a moment's hesitation.

– Babi Nobis



© Babi Nobis

My photograph "Leopard with kill" has won the Individual Silver medal worldwide as well as the Indian Team Entry Gold medal in 15th Biennial FIAP (Division of UNESCO) World Cup Photography.

The Nature Biennale World Cup organised by FIAP — the Paris-based International Federation of Photographic Art — is one of the most prestigious global events in nature photography. Over 850 photographs and projected images from over 570 of the world's leading amateur nature photographers competed for top honours at the event. An international panel comprising Jacky Martin from France, Ricardo Bussi from Italy, Jill Sneesby from South Africa and two Indians — B Srinivasa and T N A Perumal — were the judges.

A good snapshot stops a moment from running away. ~Eudora Welty





# Early Days



THE STATESMAN, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1, 1997

**UNWANTED DOGS**

Sir, — Old age homes for humans have become common because our utilitarian attitudes encourage people to despatch their "inconvenient" parents elsewhere.

Yet the pitiful sight of lost and frightened dogs abandoned by uncaring owners frequently troubles sensitive people in Calcutta. That is why the concept of "Dog's Own" received such widespread, instant response. Mr Debasish Chakrabarti started by giving shelter to abandoned dogs there. The reports brought a representative of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (R.S.P.C.A.) in September '90. R.S.P.C.A. recognition to the Compassionate Crusaders Trust (inspired by R.S.P.C.A., which formalizes and continues the work) was immediate, but they hesitated to give recognition because Debasish refused to accept a clause which called for the euthanising of unwanted, but healthy dogs. His stand was that to accept such a policy was both unethical and illogical. He feared that it would open a floodgate of callous and rampant slaughter, reminiscent of the holocaust.

Your news item vindicated his stand. Reading that three quarters of a million unwanted pets are killed in Tokyo each year, I am not surprised that Japan has the doubtful distinction of having the world's highest rates of suicide, hypertension and juvenile ulcers.

It reminds one of the adage that while it is good to have money and the things that money can buy, it is also a good thing to check up now in a while that we haven't lost the things money can't buy! — Yours, etc., PURNIMA L. TOOLSIDASS  
Calcutta, December 28.

THE STATESMAN MONDAY JUNE 24 1991  
**Calcutta Notebook**

**"Dogs' Own"**

WHEN human beings grow old and useless, they are sent to old age homes which are more often than not meant to shirk off responsibility towards the previous generation. A unique and compassionate extension to this concept has been provided by Debasish Chakrabarty. A lover of dogs he has started a retirement home for dogs near Dum Dum airport. Doubtless all dog-lovers of the city will welcome "Dogs' Own", especially since a lot of dog-owners, in spite of their love for pets, are unable to provide shelter and adequate medical facilities when dogs fall ill or grow old, mainly due to financial and other constraints. Consequently, these dogs are put to sleep, or they die of neglect. Keeping this in mind, Debasish, with the help of an industrialist, provides treatment at Ganganagar.

There are no arrangements in Calcutta for the burial of pet dogs. This has given rise to the unhygienic practice of people dumping their deceased pets either in the local garbage heap or in the floodgates. "Dogs' Own" has burial facilities and the owner can arrange to have his pet buried with an epitaph of his choice. Owners in need of "Dogs' Own" can contact Debasish Chakrabarty at 1/13 A, Chai Chandri Road, Calcutta-37 (Phone: 26-7149). We wish Debasish all the best.

★



The world owes all its onward impulse to men ill at ease. The happy man inevitably confines himself within ancient limits. ~ Nathaniel Hawthorne



## RSPCA - U.K.





## Memories of Lulu

### Memories of Lulu, the sweetest natured dog I have known.

I went down to the pantry as usual, early one morning. There Janeth Khan the boy who used to help us greeted me.

Mundi-baba, he said in Urdu, I have brought you a dog; and there behind him was a cheerful-looking little dog, about four months old, with a lovely gold and white colouring, a snout covered with some hair, a pink string tight around its neck, but the effect of all was spoilt by a long, ugly tail, with no hair at all on it. The tail became the subject of derision of the military officers and their wives, for Fort Sandeman in Baluchistan where we were living then in the early 40s was essentially a military cantonment, and time and again they adjured us to have it docked; but they lived to see it grow into a beautiful, hairy, white and gold thing, the pride of Lulu, for that was what we named the pup, after our teacher's favourite cousin, as suggested by her.

My parents gave me permission to keep the pup and it followed me cheerfully that morning into the long hall that was our classroom. But not so cheerful was the reception she got. One look, and Kudu my twin brother scooted up, as it were, the mantelpiece and Thuli my sister mounted the ping-pong table.



Lulu- photographed by a friend in China in mid'80s

There they both remained for the rest of that morning's class, with Lulu looking really happy below them, wagging its tail furiously and barking, trying to persuade them to descend.

Lulu was quite soon given a playmate by one of the jamadars, a male dog of superior breed, with

a smooth brown and white coat. His introduction to our household was not one of the happiest, for he was placed on the ping-pong table, and the tiny pup that he was, unable to stand, he slid clean off the table and, of course, howled. We never took to him as we did to Lulu, for there was something superior and aloof

about him, and, as a male, he went wandering. Lulu would stand on top of the hillock and cry with apprehension when Lindy, for that was what we named him, went down the hillock to play with the tommies' dogs below; but otherwise the two dogs had great fun together, running the vast empty spaces in Sandeman and the snow in winter and, it must be admitted,

destroying the fur slippers of our house – guests.

After she had been with us some time, one of the jamadars told me that Lulu had belonged to the club steward. I could well believe that, for I remembered that cheerful little pup, with the pink string around its neck, come out to greet the guests. I do not remember passing on this information to my parents,



## Memories of Lulu

perhaps because I was afraid that we would not be allowed to keep the pup.

In the course of time, Lulu was inevitably discovered by a huge white, fierce street dog and, equally inevitably, gave birth to a litter of seven pups. Kudu named them Snowwhite and the Seven pups. But the time had come for us to leave Sandeman and we were allowed to take only two of the pups with us, besides Lulu. We chose a female which had Lulu's colouring and a white male.

While traveling by train, father said he had never seen such agony as on Lulu's face in the dog-box. Our hosts in Delhi were keen to have one of the pups and we parted with the white male. Many years later I was told that

he had become as fierce as its father and only the head of the family could touch him. The female pup, named Gogai, had Lulu's happy looks and woke us every morning, scampering over the mattresses on the floor in



Lulu-the most comfortable place on earth,  
at the master's feet

Madras where we slept. She also became the adored pet of the youth of the house, for he fed her his glass of milk every morning. So Kudu and I sat outside his room one morning and complained aloud to each other that he was taking our pup from us. He emerged laughing the next morning and said he had no intention of taking our pup, so Gogai lost its daily dose of milk. When we were in Ottapalam, however, a cousin greatly wanted it and we left it with her when we were going to Bharatpur. We saw Gogai some years later, a bigger version of Lulu, lovely but more grave. Lulu stayed on with my sister Kunja after she got married and lived up to a ripe old age.

~ K. P. S. Menon

I would rather see the portrait of a dog that I know,  
than all the allegorical paintings they can show me in the world.

Samuel Johnson



# Student Crusaders



THE TELEGRAPH WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1996

**Meet on social concerns**

■ A talk on "Holistic Approach to Contemporary Problems" was held in the city on Monday. Speakers, including Ms Geeta Bandopadhyay, Ms Sadha Kaul, Mr Hossain Rehman, Mr A.R. Khan and Dr Sujit Ghosh, spoke on a more compassionate social order. They also dwelt on how pets can soothe troubled minds and provide succour in the lonely. The talk was organised by Compassionats

**16 JANUARY 1997**

**ENGAGEMENTS**

- 90th anniversary lecture of Research Society, New Market till Jan 26, 10.00
- Compassionate Crusaders Trust screens Tiger King at RASCI arena till an engagement of air pollution at Institute of Chemical Engineers, 10.00
- Indian Jute Industries Research Association holds seminar on energy management for the jute industries at JT Tarapur Rd, 10.00



THE STATESMAN, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1996 **3**

## 'Invest in men, not machines'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

CALCUTTA, Sept. 23. — Eminent speakers from various walks of life spoke of their personal experiences in "A holistic approach to contemporary problems" at a seminar organized by the Compassionate Crusaders' trust here today.

Mr Hossain Rehman, social historian, said investment should be made in man, not in machines.

Since this was a "learning society", an enormous investment should be made so that no one was left out of the process of education, he said. Everyone

should be included in the process of education because the holistic approach stressed the importance of the whole and the interdependence of its constituent parts.

Elaborating on the contemporary problems, Dr Sujit Ghosh, psychiatrist, said the basic problem of some people lay in the non-acceptance of their worth. They should take a lesson from pets who, unlike human beings, offered unconditional friendship and understanding to their masters.

Mrs Sadha Kaul, social activist, observed that pets imparted certain essential social values to

their master.

Since the interests of mankind kept changing, pets took a back seat in social life, Mr Ain Rashid Khan, Director, Intelligence Branch, said.

Underscoring his point, he said pets played a significant part in the middle ages. However, the importance of pets dwindled from the renaissance period, when human interests became more divergent.

Mrs Geeta Bandopadhyay, litterateur and teacher, said it was easy to theorize and tell children to love animals but they hardly had any time to themselves.





# SPCA - Hong Kong

## Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Hong Kong

Fifty years ago Hong Kong was like many poorer cities with open-fronted shops selling meat or groceries next to dirty repair garages for cars, and we had very few laws to cover hygiene and health. The hills were covered with thousands of self-built huts and even some underground passages where refugees from China lived in metal cages. My husband was in the army and so many of the army wives helped with relief for the poor and disadvantaged as well as giving English lessons to the local people.

To guard their possessions the squatters in the hills would breed huge dogs which slept in their huts at night and were tied up inside when they went to work. Quite often the dogs escaped and came down the hills, many to roam around the railway lines in Kowloon.

Mrs Lenore Winfield was a Committee Member of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and that is when she recruited me (a reluctant volunteer at the time) to go around these open-fronted butchers shops and ask for bones with a little meat on for these animals. We scraped the meat, put it into newspaper parcels and went to the fields where the dogs were gathered near the railway lines. She then would call out

“Boys, Boys” – I would fling the parcels as far as I could and run for my life.

That was in 1963 and I have been a volunteer for the Society ever since, during which time I have served on the Executive Committee, been the last President of British rule and the first of Chinese Rule and a Trustee for the last 20 years. I am now 85 and there is still plenty of useful work that I can do and expect to do for many years to come.

~ Pamela D. Barton



- 1 Prevention of cruelty to animals
- 2. & 3 Dogs awaiting adoption
- 4 Cats awaiting adoption
- 5 Mobile animal care unit





## Exploitation of the mutes



Amusement Park, China



Sonepur Annual animal-trade fair, Bihar



Crawford Market, Mumbai



Sunday Market  
Galiff Street, Kolkata

Out of 135 criminals, including robbers and rapists, 118 admitted that when they were children they burned, hanged and stabbed domestic animals.

Ogonyok (1979)





## Minds of animals-Cow

### It's Time (magazine) to Respect Cows

Animal minds made big news this month with Time magazine dedicating its cover story to the topic. "Inside the minds of animals," by Jeffrey Kluger, provides an engaging glimpse into some of the exciting recent discoveries in animal cognition. That title is an improvement over that of a February 2006 Scientific American article which asked meekly, "Do Animals Have Feelings?" as if there should remain any doubt about that.

Kluger appears to have had an epiphany when he contrasts how sentient animals really are to the indefensible way humans have treated and continue to treat them, especially farmed animals. He emphasizes that the boundaries separating human and non-human animals are disintegrating. Time magazine, through him, has taken a bold public step in saying that "we could surely eat less meat." I hope this generates considerable angst among its readers and advertisers alike.

Kluger repeats the common prejudice that herd animals exhibit little intelligence. Intelligence aligns poorly with sentience, so even if deer and horses and giraffes were less smart than other creatures, it wouldn't follow that they can

suffer less or feel pain less acutely. Further into Kluger's article, the Harvard University ethologist Marc Hauser is quoted as saying that "animals have a myopic intelligence; they never experience the aha moment that a 2-year-old child gets." While one can sympathize with Hauser for the turmoil currently surrounding his research methods, I can't sympathize with a statement like that. Tellingly, a study on herd animals puts the lie to both Kluger's claim of their lack of intelligence and Hauser's claim of human uniqueness. A 2004 Cambridge University experiment showed that young heifers exhibit behavioral expressions of excitement when they solve a problem. At critical points in their learning curve in a task that required pressing their nose against a panel to open a gate for access to food, the heifers showed behavioral signs of excitement (jumping, bucking, or kicking), and the animals' heart rates rose. A second group of heifers whose access to food was provided independently of their panel presses showed no such behaviors. This study suggests



that cows—and probably many other animals—can have "eureka" moments, taking pleasure in their own learning achievements.

Pressing a panel to get food may not seem like such an astonishing bovine act to us now, but it wasn't long ago when scientists gauged ape smarts by comparable feats. Perhaps it's time to form a counterpart to the Great Ape Trust that focuses on bovine consciousness and intelligence. After all, corvids (crows, jays, ravens, magpies, etc.) have leapfrogged social carnivores in Kluger's smartness continuum. Who would have expected birdbrains to do that?

By expanding our awareness of animals' feelings, we are gradually being forced to acknowledge that a new relationship to them is needed. Lawmakers in the Spanish region of Catalonia recognize that. In July they voted to ban bullfighting. Following heated debate, the 135-seat legislature ruled 68 to 55 (nine abstentions) for the ban. If cattle could read headlines, there would have been some more jumping in the air that day. Olé!

~ Jonathan Balcombe, PhD

*If a man aspires towards  
a righteous life,  
his first act of abstinence is  
from injury to animals.*

Albert Einstein





# Outreach Programmes



**CITY WA**  
**THE SUNDAY STAT**

**ENGAGEMENTS**

- 50th Anniversary Festival of Pinnawala Sea Lion Rehabilitation Mandir on Jan 20, 10-00
- All Bangor Inter-Social Welfare Home, Sunday Mass at S.A.S. Ground, Salt Lake, 15-00
- Cattle Camp at Boudha by Compassionate Crusaders Trust
- Triceps Milan present 60 m-bow competition at lawn premises, 13-00
- World Peace Day sponsored by Pt. Suresh Babina Kumaris Ishwariya Vidya Vidyapeeth at lawn premises, 18-00



Rural  
Animal Care  
Camps



# Animal People

## The Pen is Mightier than the Sword

Excerpts from interview given by Merritt Clifton to Animal Crusaders

**Q.** What do you say to the argument that there are enough human issues to worry about than spending time, money and resources on animals? Do you think that human rights and animal rights issues can clash and one must be done at the expense of the other as a matter of priority?

**A.** Animal issues mostly are human issues. Much of my work on "animal issues," mentioned above, has also involved exposing threats to human health, for example as result of water pollution caused by factory farming and harmful chemicals being put on the market based on misleading animal test results. Much of my work helps to prevent outbreaks of rabies, leptospirosis, and other potentially deadly diseases.

There is also the inescapable association of violence against animals with violence against humans. No human was ever better off because someone was allowed to abuse a dog; but wherever dogs may not be abused with impunity, women, children, the aged, and the infirm are also safer from abuse.

**Q.** What do you think of the role of the mainstream press in advancing the animal movement? Has the press and media done enough to highlight the animal cause?

**A.** Coverage of animal issues has increased about ten times over in mainstream U.S. newspapers since I started in journalism, and appears to have increased about four times over in Indian newspapers during the past 20 years.

**Q.** What is your assessment of the Compassionate Crusaders Trust?

**A.** A very dynamic and accomplished organization, which will rise to do more as Indian affluence rises, increasing the support base for Compassionate Crusaders' work.

**Q.** What is your opinion on CCT's campaign against the Zoos in India ?

**A.** I would have to see many more Indian zoos to form a clear idea about this. As regards Indian zoos, though, I am encouraged that the Central Zoo Authority is

encouraging many to become actively involved in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

(The Indian Zoo Inquiry; a review of conditions in the Zoos of India by Compassionate Crusaders Trust & Zoo Check, Canada 2006.)

Merritt Clifton is the editor of ANIMAL PEOPLE, a US based newspaper that provides coverage of animal issues all over the world. He has over 30 years of journalistic experience.

I am the voice of the voiceless; Through me the dumb shall speak, Till the deaf world's ears be made to hear, The wrongs of the wordless weak.

Merritt Clifton visits us along with Kim Bartlett, President of Animal People, Inc. and the publisher of ANIMAL PEOPLE





## Sense & Sensibility



Radharani with Mini

In our family, the tradition of keeping pets as family members has been inspired by my mother. In her paternal house there used to be varied animals as pets, and being the youngest, Radharani, my mother had the principal responsibility and interest in their upkeep. But her own preference was the cats. Later on, at the instance of my brothers, the dogs were included. My eldest brother was a doctor in the army, he was gifted a Tibetan Chow dog by a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in 1969, in appreciation of his free medical service to the villagers in the Ladakh region. He named him Mickey. As he was to move on to another strategic location due to Bangladesh liberation war of 1971, Mickey was left in my mother's care and became our first family dog! All our

subsequent family-dogs are named after him.....to never let him fade away!

Like every story, our family's pet-love also has a preamble! I was a child of six then. As my father was an engineer in the army we were provided with a large army bungalow in the midst of greens in Ranchi. During our stay there two local mongrel puppies appeared from nowhere and gradually became part of our household. They would go around freely but keep coming back for meals and stay put near the main gate of the bungalow during nights. Tommy & Kalu would



Mickey

I am the family face;  
Flesh perishes, I live on,  
Projecting trait and trace  
Through time to times anon,  
And leaping from place to place  
Over oblivion. ~ Thomas Hardy

readily respond to my mother, by their name she had given. My father was on the verge of transfer and would be busy till late. It was War-time in 1945. One of our orderlies Shanishara's job was to take me and my younger sister for daily evening strolls and Tommy & Kalu would be a part of the entourage.

One incident of an evening has become indelible in my memory, as my mother narrated it so graphically! On our way back from the evening stroll we got caught into a hailstorm and heavy downpour. Shanishara took us to a house on the way, waiting for the weather to become normal. Tommy & Kalu were around all through. Once the storm subsided a little, Tommy left abruptly, but Kalu remained with us. By that time my mother was worried, was already on the verge of breaking down. When my father came back, he set out in search, right away. Tommy came out from nowhere and started following him. After a while Tommy started pulling him by his trousers to indicate the 'right' way to where we were, and my father took the hint and started following Tommy. After going a distance they stopped, as Tommy started howling in front of a house and sure enough Kalu took three of us out of that house even before father could call us out. That day,



## Sense & Sensibility



Radharani's pet Mongoose in 1930s

till late at night we kept discussing the 'sense and sensibility' of the canines!

Then the day came of our departure from Ranchi. As our father was ordered to move to a forward location, the family was

to go back to the home town, Calcutta. Tommy & Kalu kept galloping after our vehicle and even followed us onto the station platform. As the train was about to move, my mother's eyes suddenly caught the sight of two pairs of imploring eyes. A sight

which haunted her till the last days of her life, so much so, that even after five decades whenever she would narrate the moment to her grand children her eyes glistened at the corners!

~ Sarbani Chakraborty

God's Oneness, my companions, is the only law of being.  
Another name for it is Love. To know it and abide by it is to abide in life.  
But to abide by any other law is to abide in non-being, or Death.



## The Golden Rule

There is an old saying, "the universe is indifferent". The universe seems to ebb and flow with a life and purpose but when all is said and done there remains an equilibrium, a balance that can not be disrupted. We casually toss a coin to make minor decisions in our lives because the single instance is unpredictable but any casino will tell you that when you toss the coin enough, there is really only one result, a clear and undeniable equilibrium, fifty-fifty as we might say. And so, the universe self regulates its own equilibrium, it does not care that a wild fire will destroy a village as much as it does not care that the rains will yield a bountiful crop. So, we are here in the middle of this indifferent universe, trying to make sense of each instance as it appears, not realising that we are too close to the canvas to see the painting. We lament our difficulties, we avoid pain, we seek happiness and we try to make a difference. But what's the point, right? We are a part of the universe just as much as the galaxies, the stars, even the paper that you are reading. Well, the point is that we lament our difficulties, we avoid pain, we seek happiness and we try to make a difference... Despite everything, somehow, we have learned to



*It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life 'gifts' me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, & I will become as generous & loving as they are.*

K.L.W.

care and despite what each of us may think about one and other, we all care.

I can guess what you may be thinking, "All of us are not caring, caring is not in the nature of many people in this world. We have wars, we have poverty and there are great atrocities that have been, and continue to be committed every day". It is easy to say "There are 'us' the caring people, and there are 'them' the people who don't care", but this

is the real deception. Why?

Because despite our differences, we are all cut from the same cloth, we all care. Some of us care about the environment and the legacy we leave to future generations, some of us care for our current well being and that of our loved ones. Yet we bicker and we fight because we want the other person to care about the things we care about, because what we care about is the 'right' thing to care about, and obviously the other person is wrong. We argue about how what we care about is more important than what they care about, how it is so much better, about righteousness and what's best for everyone. And then, sometimes we falter and lose sight of the big picture.

So, what is the point of all this then? It's simple, there is no 'Right' and 'Wrong', no 'Good' and 'Evil', there is only indifference. Hold on though, it's not time to suddenly go and rob a bank, there is more to the story. There is one instance, only one in the entire universe, where the idea of right and wrong exists. It's inside you, you own it and it is your responsibility to maintain, no one else's. That makes it unique, it makes it special, it is your gift and yours alone. So, how do you convince



## The Golden Rule

others to agree with you? Well, that's the catch, you don't, not directly anyway. There is only one person you can truly influence and that is yourself. So do what you believe is right, set the example, and if your definition of right and wrong agrees with that of others, they may join you or they may not, but the choice is theirs to make. I am not making you any promises about living this way, I can not guarantee that more good things will happen due to it, nor can I tell you what will result from it. All I can tell you

with any certainty is that it works for me, through the hard times and the happier times, it works for me.

So take it or leave it, its up to you but just keep in mind one thing. Through all cultures, all religions, all societies there is one common concept that has manifested itself again and again. A central maxim, an ethical code, a sense of morality that all people share deep down somewhere. It doesn't require you to believe in a particular God or faith or doctrine.

It is called the Golden Rule and it's very simple- "Treat others as you would like to be treated". It may cause you difficulty in some situations, in others it may cause you joy but one thing is certain, by living by the Golden Rule you have done as much as anyone could have ever asked for from you and, more importantly, you can rest assured knowing you have done as best you can. It is the only order we can bring to an otherwise indifferent universe, so lets make the most of it.

~ Aniruddha Chakrabarti



-: From :-

Dicky 1 Pipi 1 Misa 1 Hero 1 Luna 1 Gareli 1 Jeena  
Chang 1 Kalia 1 Dingo 1 Blacky 1 Devil 1 Bhootum  
Krishnakoli 1 Kelty 1 Pigy 1 Boogy 1 Bhulia .et al

Join "Pets" of all Animal Crusader families of this  
"City of Compassion"

A call for better attention to: "Homeless city-animals"  
Promote : Neutering & Anti-rabies shots

Nilanjan and Deepali Banerjee  
Kolkata-700042 943372189(M)



## Bird Watching

### Birds

Hail to thee blithe spirit!  
bird thou never wert,

That from Heaven or near it,  
pourest thy full heart

In profuse strains of  
unpremeditated art.

(Ode to skylark ~ Shelley)

The delightful hobby of bird watching came to me quite late in life. In the mid seventies when we were posted in Bangladesh, we had a house in Gulshan in Dhaka; a new area, a glamorous twin to Dhanmondi-the old part of the city. New as it was, Gulshan in those days did not boast of too many houses, and not a single high raised building. Those days one could see the vast open spaces that lay just a little way away. One could look up at the monsoon clouds piling up in the sky and be entranced by the sudden loosening up of the clouds and the heavy downpour. From far away across the skies came different kinds of birds. That is when I was caught helplessly in their magic.

We had a small garden with a huge jacktree, and some flowering plants and shrubs. It was in this unpretentious space that birds really came into my life and I began to marvel at the beauty and melody of these winged wonders. Families of

golden orioles came; parakeets used to screech and dart across the sky, magpie robins sang full throated, sitting perched on the television antenna.

Now more than 30 years later after all our wanderings across the globe, we are home. We live in the middle of the city, but we do get some of those welcome visitors who own the sky. It is with a sense of excitement and wonder that we watch the crowpheasant "whoop whoop" ing its way hunting for food, the wood pecker high up on the trunk of a coconut palm, the kingfisher appearing regularly and perching itself on the same branch of the tree day after day, the myna with its heavily made up eyes flitting fearlessly near the house, the treepies with their long tails swinging merrily on fragile branches of trees, a rare barn owl that strayed into the garden trying to escape the combined attack of several crows.

Age and household preoccupations do not allow me join the charmed group of 'Birders' and their fascinating adventures that I read about. But it makes excellent reading when these lucky people write about their bird related activities. Some of these accounts, by individuals and institutions, I would like to share with you.

The other day I read about a sixty four year old woman called Kunjamma who lives all alone in

a place called Kalpatta in northern Kerala. I am wrong to say she lives alone; I should say she lives without any human company. She chose to make friends with the birds around her instead. For more than 10 years now her house and the tiny plot around her house has become a sanctuary for birds. She talks to them, feeds and pets them and the birds hover around her and sing to her. She is poor and sometimes has to beg and get food for her friends. Well meaning neighbours want to take her away and look after her. But she does not care to entrust herself to such people however well meaning, and leave her winged friends.

Another heartwarming story enacts itself in a village in Tirunelveli district in south Tamil Nadu. The village is Koothamkulam quite like hundreds of other Tamilnadu villages with their narrow streets with tightly packed houses, two lakes and a temple where all the narrow lanes converge. Several types of migratory birds discovered the marshy land around the lake to be an ideal place for nesting. The villagers welcomed the birds warmly and the birds sensed how welcome they were. Hordes of water birds like pelicans and adjutant storks, flamingoes and others arrived, nested on trees and housetops or wherever they could find a place. They stayed as long as they needed to build nests and bring



## Bird Watching

up their families. The villagers—men, women and children treat them with love and respect. There is an unwritten law that the birds should on no account be disturbed. There are heartwarming stories of simple village people saving young birds that fall from the nests and looking after them till they are strong enough to fly. The villagers happily make adjustments in their daily lives in order not to disturb their winged guests in any way. So no loudspeakers, drums and other percussion instruments associated with temple festivals are permitted while the birds are around which is for several months in a year. For the last fifteen years or so the area around Koothankulam is protected as a bird sanctuary by the Tamilnadu government. Each year more than a lakh of birds of 249 species visit this haven of love following their annual migratory pattern.

Now for there is a different kind of story, of an adventure in habitat renewal which took place in a residential school 'Rishi Valley' which was established over seventy years ago by the philosopher J. Krishnamurthi in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh. One can call the story "the return of the birds".

The school campus is now a veritable grove of thousands of trees of all kinds. This grove is set amid hills of almost barren rocks of odd shapes lending the valley

an awesome charm. Today one notices one of the adjoining hills is all greener than the rest. This is what the story is all about. In the centre of the school campus stands an enormous banyan tree discovered by the founder during one of his walks in the area. The tree since he discovered it, has put down hundreds of roots and throws its shade all around. Years and years ago there was no shortage of greenery and the surrounding hills had been full of vegetation and had naturally been home to several different kinds of animals and birds. Over the years dry weather and human and cattle invasion have reduced the once green scene to scattered shrubbery; the animals and birds have all but disappeared from the scene.

In 1980 over hundred acres of the hills adjoining the school campus were leased to Rishi Valley school for reforestation, a formidable task in the bare waterless territory.

This was a challenge and the school accepted it. No time was wasted and the entire school, the students and teachers and staff all alike came forward enthusiastically to bring the lost greenery back. Pits were dug, thousands of seeds were planted, nurseries for saplings were created and water was transported to the area from wells far away. Almost twenty thousand trees and shrubs were planted over several months. Gradually

and as years passed nature started smiling again and the once stark hillside was covered with greenery. The increasing moisture, algae, fungi, trees and shrubs were all quietly preparing hospitable places for insects, animals and birds. Slowly but steadily birds returned to the valley. There are about 170 species of birds now in the area, which include dryland birds like the Indian robin and the bulbul, scrubland birds like warblers and sunbirds, woodland birds parakeet fly catchers, myna, woodpeckers and magpie robins and wetland birds like dabchicks and herons. The students of the school thrive in their closeness to nature and are enthusiastic birdwatchers. They are being ably guided by some of their masters who are well known names in the world of ornithology.

From time immemorial these fragile creatures of the sky have enchanted people, with their beauty, song and colour. The ancient Egyptian drew them on the walls of their tombs, India's hoary literature is replete with references to birds. Today thanks to the Salim Alis of the world, the bird is not only a subject of study and analysis, but is loved and cherished as a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

[I am indebted to the book *The birds of Rishi valley* for some of the details given above.]

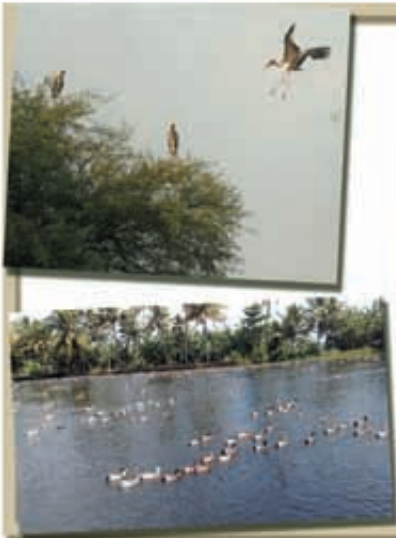
~ Lalitha Menon





# Bird Watching

## NATURAL



## URBAN

You can know the name of a bird in all the languages of the world, but when you're finished, you'll know absolutely nothing whatever about the bird... So let's look at the bird and see what it's doing — that's what counts. I learned very early the difference between knowing the name of something and knowing something.





## Rex the Boxer

### My first pet, my Doggy-pal



Nobody can forget his first pet, or for that matter any pet in his lifetime!

I still have fond memories of Rex my Boxer, my best friend at the age of eight.

That was in the year 1925, my family was staying in Bombay then.

Though I used to proudly introduce Rex as 'my dog'; he, in fact, was another child for my mother who was the kindest soul I have ever known on this earth. Though my father used to take

Rex for long drives along with us and play with him sometimes, it was my mother who used to dote on Rex. After my interaction with Rex I could not stay for a single day in my life without a dog and I realised ...Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring – it was peace. Bless you Rex!

~ Russi Mody





## Visitors & Volunteers



The secret for being miserable is to have leisure to bother about whether you are happy or not. The cure for it is occupation.

George Bernard Shaw

Native American wisdom teaches us, don't forget to "give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."



## Human-Nonhuman Bond

### Catch them young

Our children go to the zoo for picnic – Their idea about the Tiger is the one that is panting at a corner in the cage. They can not visualize this magnificent animal in action nor do they know that they have become almost extinct. The little kids know nothing about poaching and how the cities are making in-roads into the jungle unless they know the facts and figures; their minds are diverted to other topics like movies and fashion and the world of romance.

They all love animals but alas mom buys a cute puppy and the maid takes care of it, thus their knowledge about animal care is reduced to a nil. Children should know about unconventional exotic animals and how to take care of them. Going on a holiday trip need not mean any sophisticated place. Corbett National Park with the jungle lore is a fascinating idea. So is Kaziranga game sanctuary. While in town the children can visit animal friendly organizations and have a most enjoyable day. They can become volunteer or helping hands which will come very handy in later life. Gardening is a wonderful hobby for children, since we live in a concrete jungle; window boxes spilling over with flowers can be a source of joy and pride. However children should be taught the 'Do it yourself' motto rather than depending on help.

Eco friendly subject should be an integral part of the school curriculum. Those who excel in it should get a special mention. If children are encouraged to keep an eye on the neighbourhood so that trees are not cut down, animals not abused; they will have sense of responsibility, they will be useful members of the society. They should be encouraged to take out the garbage. One task they would love to take on, for example, to see to it that mummy wears eco-friendly clothes like cotton and linen instead of fur or leather. Thus they will grow up compassionate towards animals, green fingered with a vision of a better earth.

~Anita Nag

One of the most obvious facts about grown-ups, to a child, is that they have forgotten what it is like to be a child.

Randall Jarrell





# Visitors & Volunteers



All I say is, nobody has any business to go around looking like a horse and behaving as if it were all right. You don't catch horses going around looking like people, do you?

Dorothy Parker





## My first love

### Tom, my first love

Everyone has a childhood first love, or obsession. It can be anyone, a tree, a friend, a peer, or even an inanimate object like an abandoned vintage automobile or bicycle in a junkyard.

I had some such objects of desire and liking. But of what I can recall, my first connection with human emotions was my obsessive love for Tom, our ferocious pet dog.

It sounds weird but it indeed was like that. The living creature I was most fond of was not my parents or a doting uncle or any friend or cousin. I can only find now my reference point for my childhood memories from my friendship with Tom, a cross of Alsatian and some other breed even my father cannot recall now.

He was a bit of a mad dog, almost always terrorising visitors and the entire neighbourhood with his barks and gnawing of the teeth at the sight of any human- be it an alien or a known face. Like all dogs he had a hate list of known devils. Only that for Tom, the list was longer than usual.

My mother told me that cross breed dogs are more ferocious, I have no idea if she were true. Only an expert can say. I will google now to find out.

Well, Tom was fond of me, and estranged from my elder brother. Somehow my elder brother and Tom could never see eye to eye, neither they were in an eye for an eye face-off. Humiliated, Tom once chased my brother as he almost ran for his life, till my mother reined him in. Else there were not many flashpoints. It was a cold war and both had drawn a line of control.

Now, after so many years, my brother remembers Tom fondly, analyses his psychology. I feel pity that he missed his (Tom's) puppy love when it was most important for a child. But that he too secretly loved our dog brought me relief.

As a child I thought I would live with Tom forever. He will protect me, I will protect him and I will travel the whole

world with my dog, straight out of the childhood books. We had something called The Radiant Way series, and there were pictorial stories about dogs and their masters.

I would often ride on him, pull his tail and put my hands in his mouth. He would not take any umbrage and I knew soon that my cruelty makes his day. I was the only one welcomed to inflict some pain on him.

I can still smell Tom, even in moments of loneliness I think of him.

We had more dogs after Tom, but I always kept looking for Tom in them. The bonding never grew as deep as the one I had shared with Tom.

Tom was witness to my childhood pranks, my mischiefs, my deepest secrets and bad habits. We were taught from childhood to hide our seamier side from the rest of the human world, not a dog. So Tom was witness to everything. There was no veil between us.

We lived in an unfinished house on the outskirts of Kolkata which is now a bustling extension of this megapolis, a hunting ground for realtors and the well-heeled. Those days there were jungles full of snakes and some animals like fox and around. My mother would often live in fear and curse my father for building a house there. The fear was, however, more of humans.

But it was Tom who had created the fear in the neighbourhoods that our house is unapproachable to miscreants just because of him. He could tear any stranger into pieces, that was the word that had got around. So we would live in our ghostly unfinished three-storey house with the assuring presence of Tom and a poor Muslim family of extraordinary human beings along the boundary wall of our house.

Strangely, Tom never threatened the matriarch of the Muslim family. She would frequent our house and help my mother with everything. Tom was a mad dog, but his madness had not blinded him about real bonds between humans. The lady was very special to us.

So years passed by playing with Tom, sharing my intimate thoughts with him and feeling secured till one day my father decided to shift from the greater Kolkata house to the heart of the city in a rented house.

We were excited about the change, but one evening my father came back home to say that he had handed over Tom to someone else since the new house is not big enough to accommodate a dog.

I still do not know how my father could do that and why he did that. Later when we underwent a bad financial crisis after some of my father's business ventures failed following his voluntary retirement from a cushy job, my mother said it was the curse of Tom.

I always felt that Tom must have lost his ferocity to the new owner and perhaps spent the rest of his life missing us.

I don't remember crying with the loss of Tom. I remember the emptiness for days, the yearning to see him, hug him once, the wishes of a powerless six-year-old.

In our new house at Lake Market, we were surrounded by the usual bustle of Kolkata. I made friendship with street dogs there, even got bitten by one. Life moved on. Later we had gone back to the old house before it was sold off by my father after several thefts and a daring dacoity that had hit the headlines then in the late 1970s.

My mother always said Tom could have prevented the thefts and dacoity. I am not sure.

Today, as I recollect my first association with a pet, I know it was not just a fad. It was my first brush with life, with love, with kindness, with acceptance of the plurality of the Mother Earth.

~ Sujoy Dhar

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.



# Student Crusaders



The Statesman, Calcutta  
THURSDAY MAY 6, 1967

**CAMP**  
Compassionate Crusaders  
Treat Orphanage & Blind  
Children Fun Camp, '67 from  
May 18 to 22, between 8.00  
a.m. and 5.15 p.m. at St.  
Lawrence High School. The  
programme fee is Rs 200.  
The young 100+ and the  
young at heart are welcome.  
The camp is being organized  
by Animal Day of the Lovers  
Trustee Training Centre.



Until I was thirteen,  
I thought my name was  
SHUT UP.

Joe Namath



Parents can only give good advice to children or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in her own hands. ~ Anne Frank



## Plant with a Mind

### Plant with Sentiment

Real treasure lies within. If we have a sensitive mind, we don't need to search for pleasure from earthly possessions; nature has enough charm to keep us happy, always!

I have had the pleasure of witnessing a very touching interaction between a potted plant and its hobbyist tender which consolidated my faith in nature's power of keeping us happy and away from the earthly complications of day to day life.

I went to call on a friend who had just come back from a visit to her daughter living abroad. She asked me to give her a little time to get me some refreshments. As I knew of her hobby of keeping

uncommon and exotic plants, I thought of strolling out on to her balcony where she kept a large number of beautiful potted plants. I was looking at each one of them, appreciating the beauty and grandeur.

She told me earlier that whenever she has to stay away from her house for more than a day, she would always engage someone to look after and water her green pals, the "DEMETER's children"! To my utter surprise I found one of the plants with large leaves had all shining and bright like the other ones but with drooping leaves. As I was contemplating on the 'strange' posture of the leaves which I remember seeing earlier in normally erect position; I felt my hostess standing behind. I

looked at her face and could not miss tear drops rolling down her cheeks. She pushed me aside gently, caressed and kissed each one of the leaves and raised her face towards me. Before I could ask anything, she explained that this particular plant is a bit more 'sentimental' than the other ones. In spite of regular care, all her plants miss her personal touch!

I felt a strange kind of fulfillment on finding this aspect of the plant life. Though, thanks to Acharya J.C. Bose, we all know that plants are living beings, yet how many of us actually realize that the plants have minds too!

\* DEMETER-the Greek goddess of plant & agriculture

~ Sudeshna Bose Bhanja







## Outreach Programmes

Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.

Jonathan Swift



1



2

1 & 2 IIM Calcutta's a student initiative - INCA (Initiative for Community Action), aimed at "service to others who serve others".

3 & 4 Flood relief for animals, distribution of cattle-feed



3



4



# Roots & Shoots

GREEN PIECE / SANCHITA GUHA

## Lifelong Honeymoon With Conservation

FEW PEOPLE concern themselves with the welfare of others when they are on honeymoon. Few people, for that matter, come to Kolkata on their honeymoon. But Canadians Nick January and Kylee Wishart are not your everyday mushy couple who can see nothing but each other in the first throes of marital bliss.

Combining pleasure with the business of social work, Nick and Kylee are spending some time in this city where



that he was impressed with the facilities. "The people of Kolkata," he feels, "have good attitude towards animals." His mission here mainly to visit schools and give talks that would encourage the children to volunteer for animal welfare work.

For a honeymooner, he is very well prepared for this campaign, armed with a PowerPoint presentation on Jan Goodall's Roots and Shoots



THE TELEGRAPH FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2007

### Canada crusader against man-animal conflicts

BY SANCHITA GUHA

From the east coast, Nicky Wishart and family headed to Kolkata to the positive first hand and inspiring knowledge of April's programme in our wonderful city. For, as a 60-year-old first-generation animal protection and rescue volunteer, Nicky has spent his life in the front lines of the animal welfare movement.

The chief objective of Roots, Shoots & Shoots is to raise awareness about the man-animal conflicts. It aims to educate the public about the causes and consequences of such conflicts and to encourage people to take steps to prevent them. The programme is being implemented in various parts of India, including Kolkata.

they don't need to be rescued and, before their death throes, to be put to sleep. The programme aims to educate the public about the causes and consequences of such conflicts and to encourage people to take steps to prevent them.



Nick and Kylee in front, Pooja in the background.



### পড়ুয়াদের প্রকৃতি-বার্তা বিদেশি দম্পতির

অনেক পড়ুয়াই জানেন যে প্রকৃতি-বার্তা (Roots, Shoots & Shoots) একটি আন্তর্জাতিক পরিচিতি। এই প্রকল্পের মূল উদ্দেশ্য হল মানুষ-প্রাণী সংঘাত (Man-Animal Conflicts) সম্পর্কে সচেতনতা তৈরি করা।

নিকি জানার্ট (Nicky January) এবং ক্যিলি ওয়াশার্ট (Kylee Wishart) হলেন এই প্রকল্পের অন্যতম প্রমোটার। তারা গত কয়েক বছর ধরে ভারতের বিভিন্ন শহরে গিয়ে প্রকল্পটি চালিয়েছেন।

নিকি জানার্ট জানান, "প্রকৃতি-বার্তার মূল উদ্দেশ্য হল মানুষ-প্রাণী সংঘাত সম্পর্কে সচেতনতা তৈরি করা এবং প্রকৃতি-সুখ (Nature's Well-being) বৃদ্ধি করা।"

The Jan Goodall Initiative Environmental and Humanitarian Programme for Youth

# Roots & Shoots

The World's Youngest Environmentalists

Knowledge, Action & Responsibility

Planting seeds for a greener future

Join our Youth & Family Network

The goal of life is living in agreement with nature.

Zeno



# Animal Care - KarunaKunj



I think I could turn and live with animals,  
 they're so placid and self-contained,  
 I stand and look at them long and long.  
 They do not sweat and whine about their condition,  
 They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,  
 They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God.

Walt Whitman





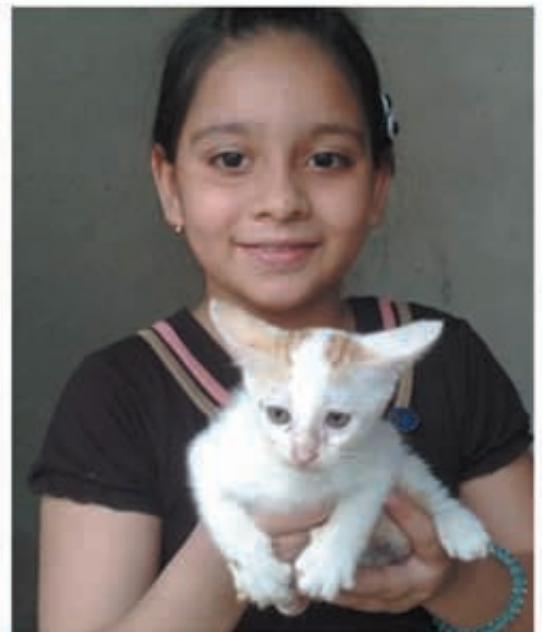
## Anti-Speciesism



### On World Day Against Speciesism

June 5, 2010,

8 year old Sumadhura, a compassionate crusader visited Karuna Kunj..paid homage to the departed friends, cuddled the shelterd Kitties, Doggies, planted a tree for them and dedicated it to her buddy Poppy.





# Animal Care - Horse



ASIAN AGE • CALCUTTA • 3.2.1997  
NEWS DIGEST



Pravara to river: The Eastern Command starts a medical camp for ponies at the maddan. A photograph by Abhijit Mukherjee

## Camp to treat ponies opened

Calcutta, Feb. 2: The temporary wing of the Eastern Command has started treating the maddan ponies at the Calcutta Maddan every Sunday. The camp has been opened at the express permission of the group of compassionate individuals in the city, reports our correspondent.

Army personnel Colonel Bhowmik said this was a maiden effort to look after the animals which are invariably neglected in poor ghats to people in the city and that left to die to neglect.



A man of kindness,  
to his beast is kind.  
But, brutal actions,  
show a brutal mind:  
Remember, He who made thee,  
made the brute,  
Who gave thee speech and reason,  
formed him mute;  
He can't complain,  
but God's omniscient eye  
Beholds thy cruelty -  
He hears his cry!  
He was designed thy servant;  
not thy drudge,  
But know - That his Creator  
is thy judge.

Unknown author from  
The Ladies' Equestrian Guide, 1857.





# Gentle Giants

## A gigantic loss

The death of 7 utterly beautiful elephants by train accidents is a colossal loss to us. ~ Anita Nag

Government  
declares Elephant  
as National  
Heritage Animal

**(GAZETTE NOTIFICATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA  
EXTRA ORDINARY)**

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110003.  
Dated 21.10.10

**NOTIFICATION**

F. No. 1-35/2010-PE (.) In pursuance to the recommendation made by the Task Force on Project Elephant and approval by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) in its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, Government of India hereby declares Elephant as National Heritage Animal of India.

(A.N. Prasad)  
Inspector General of Forests and  
Director (Project Elephant)



Alas! if only the elephant knew that he 'posthumously' is our 'National Heritage Animal'!!



## Team CCT





## Remembering Sunil



### And that was Sunil

“Your meal is not yet ready dear”, this is how I answered his scratching the door. Sunil would go down quietly, but came up again as he spotted Reba in the garden, expecting something to eat in the meal time.

Sunil was a country dog, born in the premises of our housing society to his mother Moti, who was also a pet of the house. Sunil had other names. But this particular name was given to him by my brother once when he visited us from Canada.

Sunil grew up in the household of the society. He played with the children, loved them and perhaps was loved by them too. Sunil indeed had a very loving nature. He did not want anybody to leave the house even for sometime, would run after him, push him

with his head from the back to protest, or stand in front of their vehicles, unrelenting to move even as the vehicles started and he would be the first one to greet at the gate on coming back.

Sunil was very sensitive, had a deep sense of self-respect. If ever admonished by somebody, or spoken to with unpalatable words, Sunil would not visit his place for days together, nor answer his call.

And he was also quite conscious of his own presence. If I talked about him, about some feat or mischief, Sunil would sit at a distance with apparent indifference, yet attentive to being talked about.

Sunil supervised the work of the mechanics who came to work. He would make the security men alert of their duties, chase a

suspect. But generally liked to sit comfortably on the platform at the centre of the garden, while his loud masculine bark made his presence known.

However, a few things our pretty (yes, he was) dog did not like. He would awaken the entire household with his cry whenever we tried to give him a leash. The other was taking medicine. Yet another was putting on warm clothes, especially the sweater that was knit for him. He would wish away the moment we approached him with the thing and often disappear from our sight for some time.

That was Sunil.

Sunil is no more, but we miss him, indeed we do miss him every moment !

~ Apala Chakravarti





# The rights of our animal brethren



**Compassionate Crusaders  
invite you to join them for  
their mourning walk.**



# The rights of our animal brethren

“From an early age, I have adjured the use of meat, and the time will come when men look upon the murder of animals as they look upon the murder of men.” - Leonardo Da Vinci.

An issue of fundamental significance and universal relevance needs to be brought into the consciousness of the world community. Ecology and environment, life in every form and evolution, have certain harmony and intergrality that makes all creation kin. Spiritually speaking, the quintessence of the environmental movement, in its widest sweep, is that everything belongs to the supreme self and performs its karma with a functional nexus. In practical terms, there is a purpose for everything in Nature too sacred to be destroyed.

### IS THERE A SOLUTION?

Governments must be pressurized to do the right thing lest India’s image and cultural heritage suffer severe damage. Let us not betray the generations from the Buddha to Gandhi. Our tryst with destiny, made when India awoke to Independence, included an imperative that the nation will wipe every tear from every eye’. This applies to our animal brethren, parrots, doves and other birds with broken wings to be sold as pets or for delicate dish, lions and tigers cramped and doped in small cages and even elephants and bears brutally treated to perform impossible feats. Let us begin the crusade for compassion and we must win because our case is just.

“DARWIN TAUGHT US NOT THAT ALL MEN WERE MONKEYS ONCE, BUT THAT SOME MONKEYS HAVE NO TAILS NOW.”  
 –George Bernard Shaw.

(Excerpts from Random Reflections by Justice V.R.Krishna Iyer, Universal, ed. 2003.)

Courtesy: LAWYERS UPDATE- JULY 2005  
 Full text available at [www.animalcrusaders.org](http://www.animalcrusaders.org)





## Pets' Memorial

### Ronaldo, the Official Greeter of Karuna Kunj Animal Sanctuary



Ronaldo has gone beyond!- on the 10th of March, 2009

He was our guest at Karuna Kunj since 8th February, 1998

Ronaldo is in charge of greeting all visitors at Karuna Kunj and showing the other dogs that humans can be their friends. In a previous post on this blog, I wrote about my visit to Karuna Kunj, the animal sanctuary

outside Kolkata, India, which is home to approximately 40 dogs and close to 90 cats. The dogs here have all come from living on the streets and are not adoptable for various physical or behavioral reasons.

Ronaldo was left at Karuna Kunj by his person, who moved out of the city. But this man, who named Ronaldo after a Brazilian soccer player, wanted his dog somewhere where he could visit him.

Ronaldo's person doesn't come to visit anymore, but he has plenty of other visitors. And, since most of the other dogs are wary of humans, Ronaldo gets every visitor's attention all to himself. He likes to oversee that each person signs the Guest Book, as in the photo above. When I was at Karuna Kunj, Ronaldo never left my side and any moment I stopped or sat down, his head was right under my hand.

Ronaldo has plenty of doggie

friends at the sanctuary, too. There's Dingo, Moti, Lulu, Kalu, Rocky, Kabir, Tiger, and many more. Since it is warm all the time in India, the dogs don't need to be kept indoors. They are free to go wherever they like (only the kitchen with a screened door is off-limits). In the summer, they dig holes to lie in or sleep in shady areas. In the winter, they sprawl out in the sun.

Ronaldo and the other dogs have a home for the rest of their lives at Karuna Kunj. To learn more about Compassionate Crusaders Trust, which runs the sanctuary, or to find out how you can help Ronaldo and his friends, the former street dogs, go to the website.

~ Joellen Secondo  
October 13, 2006

Ms. Joellen Secondo- Joyatri ("Jo" my actual nickname + "yatri" the Hindi word for "traveler")

Joyatri's Blog: A Best Friends volunteer with a passion for animals and India. She is based in Somerville, USA



What made me even more teary at the time was the receipt I got for the services. It went like this.....

My dearest Master,

I am lucky to have had a Master who loved me enough to see that I was laid to rest with dignity. The word "interweb" has become fashionable these days. There is,

however, a Cosmic Interweb of Souls which cuts across the barriers of this world, and this is what brought me into your home & heart ; and this is what made you bring me to Karuna Kunj....

I lived to bring you joy, to get your love and give you all I had, in my own funny way. Now, I am gone and you live on. For the love I bore



## Pets' Memorial

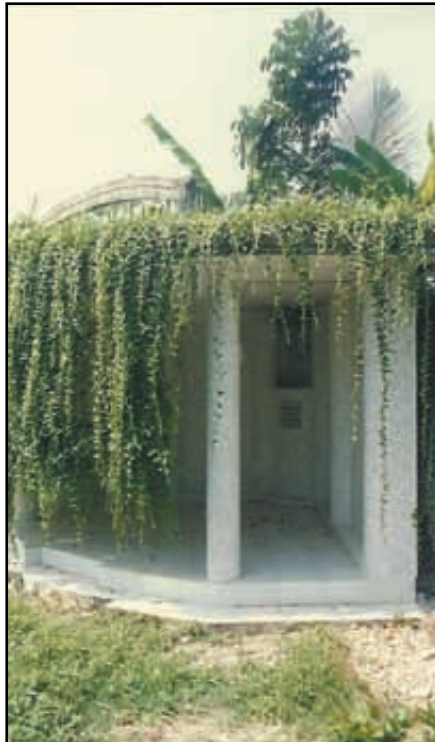
you, and for the love you have for me and for the interweb which binds all beings, I am making this parting plea :

“Live for those who love you,  
For those that think you true,  
For the heaven that is above you,  
And the hope that you have in view,  
For the cause that needs resistance,  
For the future in the distance,  
And the good that you can do.”

Your loving pet,

Date: 20/12/2008  
[Excerpts from MTV blog]

\*the note at the end, with the pet's name written by Karuna Kunj staff, is given to all the owners after the burial!



### Letting go...

Come my child,  
Let me caress your comatose self  
For the last time;  
Let me press my ears upon your  
body,  
To feel your heaving breaths,  
Let me hold you close to my chest  
And kiss your little forehead and  
cheeks  
And rock you in my arms;  
'cause it's time I let you go  
Into the greater hands that  
created you  
Twelve years ago.

It was He who sculpted you  
And placed you upon my desolate  
lap;  
But today  
He stands before me once more  
To claim you back;  
I can see His arms of Light  
—outstretched  
To embrace you.

But how can I let you go, my baby?  
How can I reconcile with this  
painful truth  
That I can hug you and fondle you  
And kiss you no more?

Come baby, let me hug you tight  
No, no! I can't let you go.....  
But I must...  
'cause He tells me He will alleviate  
All your sufferings  
Once I restore you back to His  
custody.  
He says you were never mine  
You belonged to Him and Him  
alone  
I was only a foster parent.  
I don't know if I am right or wrong  
But I'm ready to wrench my heart  
To let you go....  
'cause I can bear your sufferings  
no more.

Take my child with you, O Divine  
But do relieve him of his  
excruciating torments.

Go, my baby,  
Let your illumined little soul  
Be infused with the all-pervasive  
radiance  
Of His supernal magnanimity.

My child, merge into the Light.

Composed on 4.10.2008.

We lost our child, Cadbury. He was  
13 years old. He was suffering from  
chronic renal failure. We had tried  
our utmost to cure him. But we failed.  
His loss is beyond replacement. I am  
sending you a poem I composed at  
midnight before the very day I lost  
him. Sitting beside his gradually  
ebbing self, I felt like a helpless  
mother surrendering before destiny.

~ Sairindhree Sen.



# Eco-Logical



Men are grown mechanical in head and in the heart, as well as in the hand. They have lost faith in individual endeavour, and in natural force of any kind. ~Thomas Carlyle



Vandalizing the mangroves in the name of developing Indian west coast Mumbai and east coast Sunderbans



Vandalizing the ecology in the name of developing Indian east coast Visakhapatnam



# Eco-Logical



The message is clear:  
**Nature & Animals.....**  
**If they go we go!**

Bolivia to Create Mother Earth Ministry  
LA PAZ Apr 26, 2010, : Bolivia will create the Mother Earth Ministry, in accordance with Cochabamba's Declaration, which was adopted by the World People's Conference on Climate Change, the national media reported.





## Team CCT

The Telegraph, Calcutta, India  
Thursday, June 03, 2004

APU BANDOPADHYAY

Designed to drive home the point from decrying open slaughter of animals and ferrying of poultry birds in appalling conditions, to a tableau showcasing the power of e-governance, graphic artist Apu Bandopadhyay's thrilling exploration of new frontiers is boundless. So the state pollution control board (PCB) green-lighting his anti-pollution visuals for posters and badges on World Environment Day have got him all excited.

With an artist father Dilip Banerjee from the Government Art College and London Slade School, the 33-year-old graphic designer grew up with the waft of linseed and turpentine oil alongside the palette and the paintbrush at home. "However, he never really taught me anything hands-on, and I have never had any formal training," Apu declares.

The creative urge from his schooldays at Taki House was stoked further when he discovered the genius of Satyajit Ray as a graphic artist. Inspired by the master's sketches, he got involved in designing brochures and awareness stickers for animal welfare NGO Compassionate Crusaders' Trust (CCT) with themes like sterilisation of stray dogs and anti-urban zoo campaign. Visual campaigns for pesticide units in regional publications to raise awareness in rural belts proceeded alongside.

July 17, 2001 was a turning point when Governor Viren J. Shah inaugurated the website animalcrusader.org, designed and evolved by Apu. "Today, it is among the top 10 Google sites in terms of hits registered," he proclaims. The portal traces the growth of CCT highlighting programmes like the rabies-control initiative besides fact sheets on the animal shelter Karuna Kunj.

Apu's poster design for the PCB's World Environment Day campaign focuses on vehicular pollution and depicts a child trapped in a choking traffic snarl at a congested junction, with noxious fumes fading the visage colour. The message in Bengali says: "Let us take an oath to bring colour back into the child's life."

Among other treasured milestones are the floats he designed for the Republic Day parade for CCT on the law against performing animals in 1999 and for Webel in 2001 on e-governance.

"I would love to make an animation film using the old and livelier Disney technique," says Apu.

THE TELEGRAPH THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2001

### CALCUTTAN OF THE WEEK



SUMANTRA ROY

### Saviour of the furred & feathered

FROM A cat stranded on a hot tin roof to a crane perched perilously on a telephone wire. From an owl stuck in the crevice of a highrise window to a duck leashed to a lamppost — rescuing animals and birds in distress has always been his pet passion. So much so, that he has even chucked a corporate job to do what he loves.

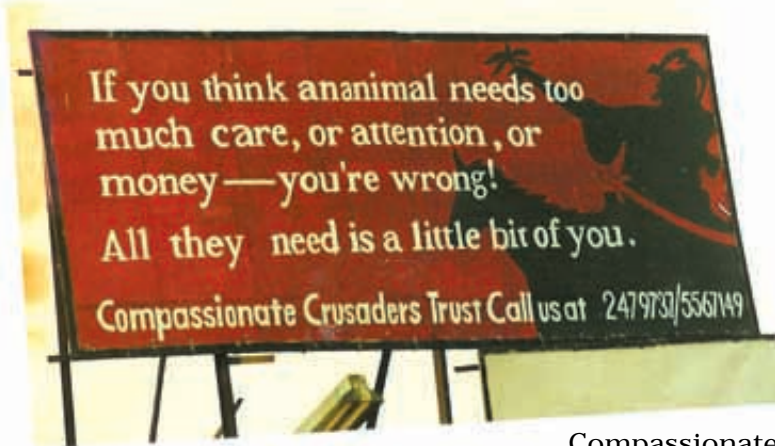
For Sumantra Roy, a 33-year-old commerce graduate, playing saviour to animals and birds in distress has been a way of life from his schooldays. Today a volunteer with Compassionate Crusaders Trust, Sumantra gets to do what he always wanted.

"Animals are mute and helpless creatures and when they get trapped in some tight corner or are distressed, they need a human hand. From childhood, I have had a way with these hapless things and from as far back as I can remember, friends and acquaintances used to invariably call me whenever a dog or a cat had to be rescued," says Sumantra, who was chastised by his mother and elder sister for "wasting away" his time with animals.





# Early Days



Compassionate Crusaders' song  
Set to tune & sung by  
Usha Utthup



Sometimes it is necessary to go a long distance out of the way in order to come back a short distance correctly. ~ Edward Albee

**"NO GOAL TOO HIGH, NO DREAM TOO FOOLISH" HAS BEEN THE MOTTO OF DEBASIS CHAKRABARTI. THE COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS' CLUB IS THE LAUNCHING OF A DREAM WHERE "EVERY CREATURE GETS ITS QUOTA OF HAPPINESS".**

**THE CLUB**

And God said, "Let there be light." Then came the animals, followed by human beings. With that light still shining on us, it was necessary to form the Compassionate Crusaders Club.

On Oct. 2, '84, the major schools of Calcutta participated in a massive programme of debate-quiz-poster and slogan competitions. To add solemnity to the occasion, amongst the distinguished guests we also had the Hon. Mayor of Calcutta and Mr. Russi Mody.


There you're with a club of your own. You can start your branch, exhibit your dynamism and even bombard us with letters galore. An article in "Target" brought about 30 letters in two months. The Trust is recognised by the RSPCA. Their representative had visited us and was impressed. Teah wood!

Subscription - Rs. 10/-; a nominal fee for permanent membership; you get an attractive red and white CC Badge, and oodles of satisfaction. With blessings from Mother Teresa, we are about to zoom. But wait before our activities begin. It's time to pledge for a better tomorrow from the charred remains of a forgotten yesterday. So - please hurry - join the compassionate path.

Break a leg!

**THE WORLD CHANGES TOO FAST FOR ALL OF US WHO ARE CHANGING TOO SLOW.**

SOME PEOPLE THINK  
ANIMALS DON'T NEED  
CARE, UNDERSTANDING  
AND LOVE



THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY  
RIGHT!







## Team CCT

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.— Vince Lombardi

Mr. Russi Mody, Chairman Emeritus of the Compassionate Crusaders Trust (CCT) is pleased to make the following statement for the direction and record of all concerned.

The Trust, CCT is formed to serve animals in distress, and also to fight for their rights to live in harmony with human society.

The actual services to the distressed animals are rendered and managed by our 'Team' of dedicated Care-givers, Para-veterinarians, Veterinarians and our Executives.

It may be clarified here, once and for all, that though the CCT pays the 'Team' some compensations for the time they devote and also to ensure their full-time attention to the assigned jobs; for the sake of the right working spirit, they are never considered as our 'paid employees' and the CCT the 'employer.'

For the last 17 years of our existence our 'Team' has rendered excellent service to the animal/human community and has enhanced our reputation globally, as amongst the best service organizations in the world.

The CCT 'Board of trustees' is merely a custodian of the public fund/grant which is accrued, and to give direction to subsequent proper utilization of it for the cause of the mutes.



The Venu Menon National Animal Awards 2002  
Venu Menon Special Organisation Award - Compassionate  
Crusaders Trust, Kolkata  
Sumantra Roy, CEO Compassionate Crusaders Trust, receives  
the Award from the late Vice-President Shri Krishnakant





## Ritual Sacrifice



In a recent report by IANS (Nov 30, 2010), century old tradition of animal sacrifice on religious festivals has been done away with by the erstwhile royal family of Nabadwip following sustained campaign by the animal welfare group Compassionate Crusaders. This gesture by the royal family has inspired Nabadwip Central Ras Committee to take up awareness programme among all puja organizers against animal sacrifice. The drive by Compassionate Crusaders in different districts of West Bengal against animal sacrifice has prompted many religious bodies including the Dakshineswar Temple authority to stop this medieval practice. Animal Crusaders' campaign since 2002 against animal sacrifice at

Kalighat Temple found justification in the Kolkata High Court's observation of September 2006 on a petition that the temple is a tourist place and visitors could not be subject to the sight of open bloodbath. Our protest forced King Gyanendra of Nepal to abandon animal sacrifice during his last visit in Kolkata in 2002. We condemn shedding of animal's blood in the name of religion and highlighted this by organising a Blood Donation Camp on the day of Kali Puja 2004 collection wherefrom was given to the Haemophilia Society of Eastern India.

Times of India reported (October 1, 2009) ritualistic sacrifice of a 5 year old boy on Dusserah night at Chandrapur in a gory example

of human sacrifice. Local police refused to register the complaint of the mother of the missing boy.

In another report by IANS from Patna, financially affected by the drought of 2008 preceded by a devastating flood, rural people of Bihar were forced to give up sacrificial slaughtering of goats during Durga Puja and Dusserah. Importance of money over appeasement of God has thus saved many of the goats.



*The finest plans are always ruined by the littleness of those who ought to carry them out, for the Emperor himself can actually do nothing. ~Bertolt Brecht*



## Islam on Animals

Allah loves all creatures and Islam forbids cruelty to animals. Since all creatures are the children of Allah, He holds as the dearest, those people who are kind to fellow creatures. Kind treatment of the dumb animals especially those held captive by the humans and made to work for them or to provide flesh and dairy produce for human consumption must not be treated cruelly. This ruling of Islam applies irrespective of countries and circumstances. It also applies to the method of killing of animals for flesh to serve as food. "Feed for the love of Allah, the indigent, the orphan and the captive, (saying) '...feed you for the sake of Allah alone; no reward do we desire from you, nor thanks.' (76:8-9)

The righteous person does not forget his responsibility towards looking after the needs of the beast of burden and sees that the Islam spirit of not overworking them, not ill treating them is never violated. Natural body parts of the animals meant for their protection should be kept unharmed and cruel acts like cutting their manes or tails or castrating a male animal should not be resorted to.

### Hunting

Hunting for sport is forbidden in Islamic teaching. Other than for food or any other useful purpose, no animal life should be taken. Killing only for a just cause where the 'just cause' is explained by the Messenger of Allah as 'He kills to eat, not to simply chop off its head and then throw it away'. It is forbidden to hunt animals that can be tamed and may be properly slaughtered in due course.

Allah does not approve deliberate cruelty other than in animals and birds bestowed with killing instinct by Allah Himself to prey for food as natural predators.

Only trained animals are to be used for hunting. A game if eaten partially by the hunting dog before the hunter reaches it, should not be eaten. Slaughter the hunted animal if it is still alive only in the halal way. Only efficient weapons like sword, spear or bullet should be used for hunting to minimise cruelty to the animal. Killing a wounded animal by throwing stones or clubbing it is totally forbidden.

"Forbidden to you are the flesh of that which has died a natural death, and that which has been killed by strangling or beating or by falling or by being gored, and that which has been (partially) eaten by a wild beast expect that which you make lawful by slaughtering (before his death)... (5:4). This prohibition reveals both Allah's kindness to animals as well as concern for human beings. While humans must not harm themselves by meat from an animal that might have died from eating something poisonous itself, or that was diseased, animals in their care should not die of disease and malnutrition and if an animal in their charge becomes diseased, either a cure will be sought for it, or it will be humanely slaughtered.

### Blood Sport

The Blessed Prophet forbade any so called 'sport' which involved goading animals into fighting each other, a common enough practice in his time. By the same principle,

all modern existing blood sports such as fox-hunting, big game hunting, badger, bear or dog-baiting, or fights to the death between cockerels, are also condemned.

### The Luxury Trade

Killing seals for fur for use as luxury garments is abhorrent to a Muslim. The Prophet does not approve of wasteful killing of animals just to satisfy the wealthy. However, body parts of dead animals may be utilised.

Ibn Abbas recorded: The freed maid servant of the Prophet's wife Maymunah was given a sheep and it died. The Prophet passed by its carcass and said: 'Why did you not take its skin to be tanned and use it? They replied: 'But it is dead.' The Prophet said 'What is prohibited is eating it'.

### Factory Farming

Some modern methods of livestock farming cruelly deprive the animals of all their enjoyment of life. They are kept in cramped and dark conditions that make their lives not only miserable but also shortened. With artificial enhancement of the bodies of the farm animals with not enough space, these animals suffer utmost misery. This insensitive way of distressing animals before slaughter is forbidden.

### Animals In Confinement

Some animals are kept in appalling conditions either for factory-farming purposes, or in zoos. It's against the spirit of Islam to keep any animal tied up, in dirty conditions or confined in a small space just for human convenience.



## Islam on Animals

The Prophet once made his companions free two little captive birds. Muslims believe that humans who treat animals and birds in a cruel manner will be answerable for their actions on the Day of Judgment.

### Animal Experiment and Vivisection

Animals are subjected to laboratory experiments for various purposes causing them pain and distress. While using them for medical research experiments may benefit humanity, often the purpose is cosmetic like using them for testing their reactions to various substances, even to cigarettes. It has been commonplace in our modern world for various experiments to be tried out on animals for all sorts of reasons. Some of these are genuinely beneficial to humanity, and involve progress in medicine and medical welfare. Others are for cosmetic purposes, or involve testing reactions to various substances, even to cigarettes. Following the principle of compassion and kindness towards all creations of Allah, any experimentation simply for reasons of luxury goods or vanity, are totally forbidden.

Even for medical progress, there must be reason enough to justify cruel experiments on animals.

### Branding

The Prophet prohibits branding of any part of animal's body except the hind quarters. "Do not brand any animal except on the part of its body furthest from its face." (Hadith)

### Prophet's Kindness Towards Cats

There are numerous stories recounting the Prophet's kindness to animals, especially cats. A famous one involves a cat that had given birth to kittens on his cloak. Rather than disturbing them, Prophet took a knife and cut round them a generous part of his cloak as their blanket. Nafi and Ibn Umar recorded that: A woman was punished because she kept a cat tied up until it died, and she was thrown into Hell. She had not provided her with food or drink and had not freed her so that she could eat the insects of earth. (Muslim 5570 & 6346).

Prophet regarded the cats that lived alongside humans as part of the family. He even used the water they had sipped for his ablutions without regarding as unclean.

### Halal Slaughter

The Muslims consider Halal to be the quickest and most painless way of killing animals with prayer in the name of Allah. 'O' believers! Eat of the good things that we have provided for you, and be grateful to Allah, if it is Him you worship. He has only forbidden you carrion meat and blood and the flesh of pigs, and that on which any name other than the name of Allah has been invoked.' (2:173; 5:3)

Shaddad b. Aus has recorded "Truly Allah has commanded goodness in everything; so when you kill, kill in a good way, and when you slaughter, slaughter in a good way. Every one of you should make his knife sharp and let the slaughtered animal die comfortably. (Muslim 4810). There is growing trend

towards vegetarianism among Muslims but this is purely a matter of individual conscience. It is not compulsory to eat meat to be a good Muslim.

Muslims do not agree with the western methods of slaughter in which animals are supposed to be stunned electrically before slaughter. The stunning often kills them. They maintain that to cut the throat with a very sharp knife is the least painful method and not electrocution. The slaughtering is done by either cutting the throat or by piercing the hollow of the throat. The best way is to cut the windpipe, the gullet, and the two jugular veins.

When Muslims kill an animal, they have to observe certain rules. The knife that will kill the beast is never to be sharpened in front of it. The creature is to go to its death in a kind atmosphere, well fed and watered, not in the slaughterhouse ambience of torture and terror. Islam prohibits slaughter of one animal in front of another for the same reason. Animal should be killed quickly while the prayer is being said.

Some Muslims refuse to eat any meat unless they know for certain that it is halal, but it would seem from the Prophet's recommendation that this is an extremist attitude. Aisah recorded that the Prophet was once told that people bring us meat and we do not know whether they have mentioned the name of Allah over it or not. Shall we eat it or not? The Holy Prophet replied 'Mention the name of Allah and eat.' (Bhukhari).

~ Colonel MZU Siddiquie



## Exploitation of the mutes

### Egypt Fatwa : A fatwa on the issue of live export

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Thanks be to Allah and prayers and peace upon the noblest of all his messengers, Mohammed bin Abdullah, Allah's blessings and peace be upon him, upon his family, companions and whoever had followed them with piety till the day of judgment and upon all prophets and messengers.

Mr Ahmed El Sherbeeny the Lawyer before the court of Cassation and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends has submitted a letter including a request of a statement of the Islamic law opinion in two matters:

The first matter is about the opinion of the Islamic law with regard to those who torture the animal at the time of its slaughter by committing acts that contradict treating it with mercy.

The second matter is about the opinion of the Islamic law with regard to transporting the animals for long distances from one country to another by means that do not observe the safety of the animal or treating it with leniency in the manner mentioned in detail in his letter. To answer the foregoing, we say:

First: The Islamic law has made it a must that the animal would be treated at the time of its slaughter with leniency and by the means that guarantee treating it with mercy. All this is included in the goodwill which was ordered by the Prophet (Allah's Peace and Blessings be Upon Him) in his true saying (Hadith) in which he says: "Allah almighty has dictated goodwill in everything :if you kill, you perfect the killing, if you slaughter you perfect the slaughter. In slaughtering one must sharpen the blade and comfort the animal before slaughtering it" narrated by Muslim. This

Prophetic saying indicates that slaughtering the animal must be carried out with leniency and mercy. This is some of what is understood by the word goodwill mentioned in the prophetic saying and what is understood from requesting the sharpening of the blade with which the animal shall be slaughtered so that the animal would not be in pain from the slaughter by the dull blade. This is what is meant explicitly by the saying of the Prophet, Allah's Peace be Upon Him, "Comfort the animal that will be slaughtered."

To satisfy such order, it is required that whatever comforts the animal until its slaughter must be done."

It has been mentioned in the true prophetic traditions what attests forbidding the sharpening of the slaughtering tool before the animal that will be slaughtered. The Prophet (Allah's Peace and Blessings be Upon Him) saw a man sharpening his knife before the animal that he was about to slaughter, so he forbade him from doing so and told him, "Do you want to slaughter it twice, once with sharpening the blade before it and once more by cutting its throat!?"

It has also been mentioned in the traditions narrated that Imam Aly (may Allah be pleased with him) prohibited the slaughter of sheep before each other or any other animals so that the feeling of the animal would not be hurt in its last moments.

These evidences and others attest that any act that contradicts leniency with

at the time of slaughtering it – in the manner mentioned in the question in detail – is considered a sinful and forbidden act and does not agree with the leniency with the animal that Islam calls for. This is the answer for the first question.

Second: With regard to the second question, we hereby say that the call of Islam to be lenient with the animal and to treat it with mercy includes all cases that necessitate such mercy, among which is transporting the animal. Such transportation must be carried out by a comfortable mean that guarantees its safety, prohibits its torture, threatening its life or afflicting it with diseases that are contagious to the human being or third party. This is deduced for the Prophetic saying of the Prophet (Allah's Blessings and Peace be upon him), "Any good deed rendered in a hardship is like an almsgiving" and his saying, Peace Upon Him, "A woman entered hell fire for detaining a cat which she neither fed nor left to eat the leftovers of the land."

These two sayings and others attest that treating the animal must be built on its mercy in all cases, among which is transporting it from one place to another.

Torturing the animal at the time of its transport – pursuant to what is mentioned in the letter of the questioner – is considered prohibited and forbidden in the law of Islam if the case is as mentioned in the question.

Allah is Higher and knows Best.

Azhar Sheikh Imam

Dr/ Mohamed Sayed Tantawy

(Signed)

24 April, 2008

Seal : Azhar Sheikhdome

Authorship and translation

Scientific Bureau

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Accurate True Translation





## Top Dog

Who could I have as a role model of honesty and dignity? I revalued many a persons as I had met and admired in books, but none could fully satisfy me due to some reasons or other. Media also fall short in my expectation regarding this.

Finally, I settle on my dog, who is more of a noble person than a canine soul. I call him Chhoto Baba (mini father), he is Bhutu to my wife, Gunda to my elder son Bappa and Sabcheye Bhalo (the best) to my younger son Bubai. We may call him by different names but the person remains the same responding always with fervour and zeal as usual epitome of honesty, dignity and compassion. We love him, facilitate him. He is a top dog, to my family and to all who have come across him, of course.

Why is he so special? I should cite a couple of examples. When we go out of our house for routine works or jobs, he feels anxious; becomes lonely and melancholic, can not find peace with himself. Chhoto Baba becomes normal and takes his dinner only after all of us in 'his' family return. One more thing he does, almost like a

'ritual', is to welcome each of us at the door.

Gunda has some special moments reserved for 'his' Bappa. He can premeditate Bappa's home-coming and waits patiently beside the main entrance. As soon as he sees Bappa enter the drawing room, all his energy explodes and he starts running like a 'mad dog' from one room to another dodging through furniture and other household 'impediments' with Maradona-like skills. This ecstasy continues for about ten minutes! Finally he stumbles at Bappa's feet, expressing in no uncertain terms, his worries and subsequent relief & happiness at the return of his 'elder brother.' Not that he gets his company for long; Bappa and 'his' Gunda does not share a



room, otherwise. Still this particular gesture of love and mental intimacy touches our heart deeply, to say the least.

A dog like my Chhoto Baba does not require any pedigree and as such, I am happy to concede that he has none. His mother was a street dog and gave birth to my beloved pet at the back of our garden in the afternoon of Kali Puja, ten years back. He is nice looking dog resembling a Husky and for me it was love at first sight for both Manisha, my wife and me; the love that has increased manifold as the years go by!

For Chhoto Babu, his love may elude the most sensitive pen to describe its magnitude. He is ever vigilant, ever loving. He spends almost the whole day just sitting or lying in front of our drawing room window opening towards the main road, only to keep tab on the commuters. He feels it is his 'duty' to be vigilant. This sense of responsibility comes from one's within, and in this respect my Chhoto Baba has surpassed everyone, human and non-human!

~ Debasish Bandyopadhyay

We long for an affection altogether ignorant of our faults. Heaven has accorded this to us in the uncritical canine attachment. ~ George Eliot



# Animal Care - Clinic



Real beauty isn't about symmetry or weight or makeup; it's about looking life right in the face and seeing all its magnificence reflected in your own.....





## Chupee

### Chupee, my feline friend

Chupee was feeling a little lost after Machu & Pichu left the house as they grew up. I was also offloaded of my daily duty of looking for them in every nook & corner of the house. My nephew Titun often regrets their absence though, his daily playtime with them after the schools he misses badly. Machu & Pichu were almost 'feline twins', both had black silky fur all over. Pichu had two tiny specks of white on his forehead and right paw. As naughty kittens they would romp around all the time under a pair of vigilant eyes of their mom Chupee who would watch indulgently, interspersed with a scolding purr sometimes. Almost a year passed as their thoughts lingered. Chupee got two more furballs, one snow white and the other one wolf gray. She had chosen a corner of my studio behind an old canvas as her whelping space. I christened them Changkurri & Mangkurri. Titun was ecstatic once more! His daily 'playtime ritual' started all over again. Chang & Mang were also becoming bolder by the day, tottering round all over the place with intermittent nap coiled inside my colour mixing bowls. I

would click to record their daily pranks!

As our shifting date approaches, Titun became anxious and kept bugging me with his one point query... "will Grannies allow you to take the kitty family along into your new flat, Apu uncle?" He would get dispirited by my reply, that our new flat is too small for them to have a free run and may disturb the neighbours there!

Now Titun has started suggesting a new option... "why don't you contact the Compassionate Crusaders and keep them at Karuna Kunj, at least they would get other feline company there!" I couldn't agree more.

The D-day had finally arrived, I was sitting, a little distracted, on my studio chair. A while back I

have fed them, Titun also petted them goodbye before leaving for his school, couldn't look at my eyes. Then came the van to take them to Karuna Kunj. I carried them on my lap and put them gently, the driver shut the door. I peeped through the van-window, Changkurri & Mangkurri were huddled together in a corner, a little scared. Chupee kept staring at me with a blank look. The van engine started, Chupee was moving gradually away from my sight. I just stood on the road, thinking of the day I picked her, a tiny furball, from in front of my house. I stood there as Chupee and her Changkurri & Mangkurri faded away from my frosted eyes..!

~ Koustuv Bandyopadhyay



The cat has always been associated with the moon. Like the moon it comes to life at night, escaping from humanity and wandering over housetops with its eyes beaming out through the darkness. ~ PATRICIA DALE-GREEN





## Animal Care - Mobile



As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.

Carl Gustav Jung





<http://www.animalcrusaders.org>



  
GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL

**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, SHRI VIREN J. SHAH, THE GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL, AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE WEBSITE OF COMPASSIONATE CRUSADERS TRUST : [www.animalcrusaders.org](http://www.animalcrusaders.org) KOLKATA, ON 17 JULY, 2001, AT 11.00 A.M.**

Of course, the quality of service is also very important. With the limited resources, instead of spreading the activities widely but thinly, it is better to concentrate on certain aspects in which you have the strength. I believe there are other organisations who are also involved in the movement. Indeed there is scope for involvement of many other like minded NGOs to further your noble cause. It is in this context that I believe your website will be of great help in spreading your message to a larger number of people. There are many people in Kolkata and West Bengal who, I am sure, are not aware of the wonderful work which is being done by such organisations and through this website these people can get to know about your various activities and not only come to you for help and advice, but volunteer their services and resources for the noble cause of compassion for animals.

With these few words I formally launch your website.

Thank you.

(Excerpts from Governor's Speech)



Our Team of Webmasters with the Governor



## Outreach Programmes

### Sunderbans.... human & animals or human versus animals!

The too frequent incidents in the recent past of mauling of villagers by Sunderbans tigers raise many questions, especially at a time when man animal conflict is seemingly on the rise. It also sharply brings into focus the methods used by the Forest Department to deal with the animal's rescue. One incident apparently took place when a tigress strayed into a locality in the Sunderbans. The villagers reported the animal's incursion but the Forest Department's delayed response set in panic. With no authorities around, the villagers felt nervous and did the obvious act of chasing the tigress which took refuge in a tree. Forest Department officials on their arrival were faced with a mob of angry villagers.

The Forest Department attempted to tranquilise the animal lodged in a tree. During the process, a villager named Ashutosh Dhali was reportedly asked by the Forest Department officials to check if the tiger had been sedated. He attempted to do so with the help of a couple of his colleagues. And it was then that the tiger rose from its apparent stupor and pounced on him. Dhali was mauled and had

to be sent to the SSKM hospital in Kolkata.

With the circulation of media reports displaying video footage showing villagers using bamboo poles to hit the animal and pelting it with stones, justifiable outrage poured out regarding the cruelty meted out to a sentient creature. When the tigress was eventually caught, public attention was drawn on the method of her release. The animal was kept under observation and was finally released under the prying eyes of cameras. A vigorous debate ensued on how the tigress was treated and there were statements from the Forest Department insinuating their success concerning the capture and release of the animal.



Ashutosh Dhali

Ashutosh Dhali however lay unattended in the hospital. He reported that his plight was ignored by the hospital authorities. The Compassionate Crusaders Trust then made a move that must have startled many. Ignoring the protestations of the Forest Department that Dhali had never been asked to see if the tigress had been sedated, Compassionate Crusaders Trust sent their representatives to the hospital to look into Dhali's welfare. Whilst most people were highlighting the plight of the tigress singularly, the organisation took a step to underpin the human's state of affairs. Compassionate Crusaders Trust praised Ashutosh Dhali and his colleagues for helping to capture the tigress and mentioned that such an effort was in the best interest of animal and human alike. The organization even went so far as to offer him a job on recuperation.

The incident shows us an aspect of human animal conflict where humans live in proximity to wild animals. And whilst there is not an iota of justification for cruel mob behaviour on animals, panic reaction of humans is also too obvious. Human animal conflict is everywhere throwing a formidable challenge to conservation efforts to balance between human rights and animal protection both being of equal importance.



## Lord- an inspiration

### Lording it all



A true testament to the resilience of the human spirit lies in the tale of Debabrata Sarkar, aka Lord.

Lord lost his father Bibek Brata Sarkar, the first supervisor of the Compassionate Crusaders' Centre for Animal Welfare (Tollygunge Clinic), at the tender age of 9, when he was studying in class III. However, this sudden shock in the youngster's formative years did not take away his desire to do well in studies. This year, Lord proved his mettle by passing the Higher Secondary examination of the West Bengal Board from Rahara Ramkrishna Mission Boys' Home School and since joined B.Com course of the Calcutta University. Lord's mother, Gitasree Sarkar, has been working as a supervisor in our Tollygunge Clinic, which was

built almost single handedly by her husband on the erstwhile Old Russa Road Pump Room gifted by Calcutta Municipal Corporation. Kudos to the efforts of this tenacious individual!



Compassionate Law-enforcers- Phulbagan Police Station, Kolkata Police



# Eco-Logical

## The threatened countryside: the agrochemical extremism

During one of my village trips, I was among a group of villagers, talking with them. I was unhappy to find the children mostly unhealthy and asked the elders why it was so. 'Why will not that be', bang came the reply from an elderly man. 'All the paddy fields', he said, used to grow copious amount of tasty small fish, which was the protein support for most

of the villagers, particularly the small children. 'Because of the use of pesticides, there is no fish growing in our paddy fields any more. This was one of the best narratives I have come across in my life which carries with itself a phenomenal amount of scientific information and direction to act.

Ask any aged villager, she will tell you that many bird species are lost, tree species are not being found or frogs are absent. Frogs used to consume 20% of the insects in the paddy fields. The point, however, is that villagers know it and they apply the

same pesticides as well. Understandably, they have been caught in a trap where they are perforce to use more and more chemical fertilisers and pesticides to break even. Although bio-fertilisers are available, farmers are not showing keenness to gradually switch over to a lower chemical fertiliser-pesticide regime. Unless the matter is addressed on a war footing, our countryside will be irreversibly lost to lifeless landscapes.

~ Dr. Dhruvajyoti Ghosh

For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled

Richard Feynman



• कृषि क्षेत्रों में जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करना आवश्यक है।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।  
 • जैविक विज्ञान का उपयोग करके हमें जैविक विज्ञान, पशु, मत्स्य और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए उत्पादों का विकास करना चाहिए।



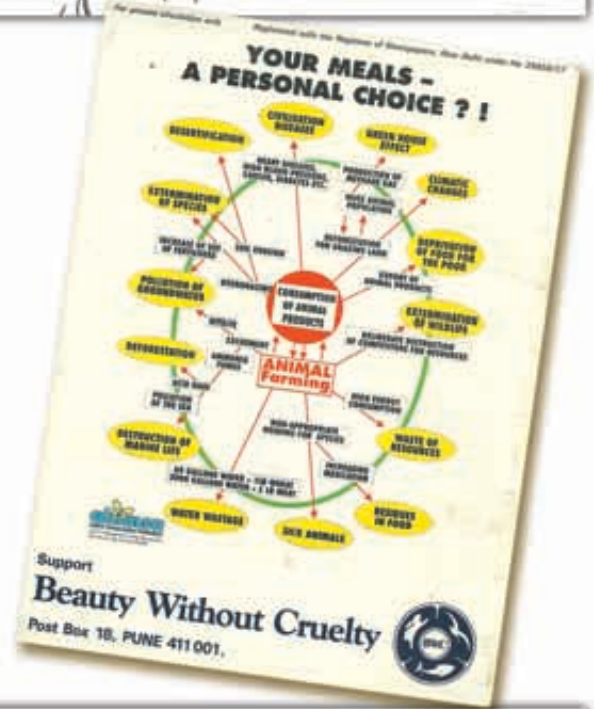


# Animals as Food

## Chicken in a U.S. slaughterhouse

Imagine for a moment that you are a chicken in a U.S. slaughterhouse. As you make your way toward a violent death, you are dumped out of your crate and your legs are violently forced into shackles so that you are hanging upside down. In fact, there's a good chance that your legs will end up breaking but no one will care. As you hang upside down, struggling to escape, you are dragged through an electrified water bath that's meant to paralyze you, not render you unconscious (of course, being rendered unconscious would be kind considering what will happen next). A blade will cut your neck as the blood slowly drains from your body. If you're lucky, you'll lose consciousness. But many birds miss the blade and are still conscious during the final step of the killing process, when they are run through the scalding-hot water of a defeathering tank.

Source: PeTA, USA



Never, never be afraid to do what is right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way  
Martin Luther King



# Zoonotic Concern

## Disease and life

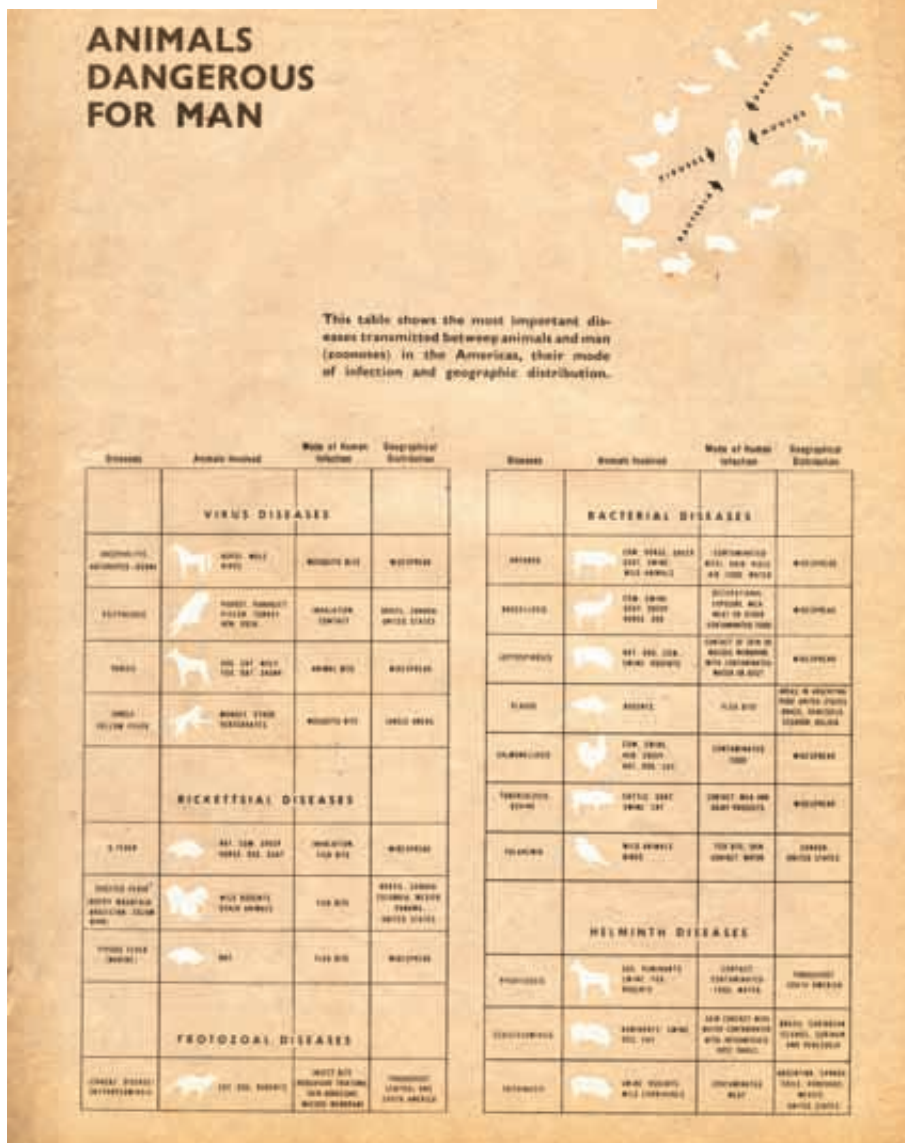
Disease is a fact of life. Of course, the definition of disease depends on the point of view. To human beings, tuberculosis is a disease. But to the tubercle bacillus, human beings are a habitat and life source. Similarly, the earth is a habitat and life source for human beings. But to the earth, human habitation is a disease, and human beings are arch parasites. To the pristine earth, the coming of Homo sapiens signaled the onset of a chronic, global illness, the outcome of which is still in doubt.

-From My Armchair :W.W. Armistead

[Dr. Willis W. Armistead of Knoxville, Tenn., a former American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) president, died April 18, 2006, at the age of 89. Retired in 1987 as emeritus vice president of the University of Tennessee, he was the founding dean of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine and, before that, dean of the veterinary colleges at Texas A&M (1953-1957) and Michigan State (1957-1974) universities.]

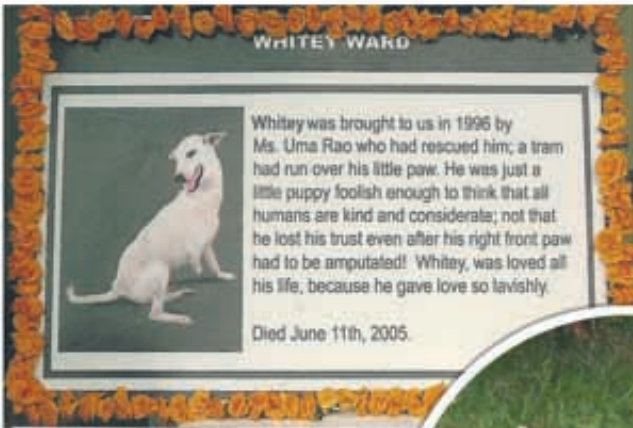


◀ Banga Sammelan conference on 'Medicine In The Millennium' Science City, Calcutta, December 28, 1999





# Whitey



13/8/2000 from Nomi

Dear whitey

I am sorry I did not pay your fees. earlier.

How are you? ☀️

I am missing you very much.

How do you do? ❤️

Are you missing me? ❤️

Are you happy there?

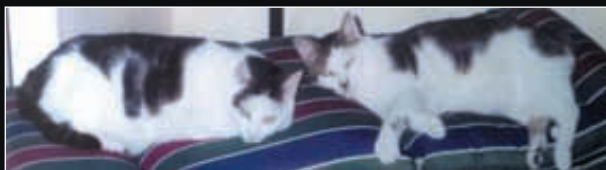
I am sure you are with the other dogs. We all miss you







## Sampson & Tiki



In memory of  
“Sampson” and “Tiki”  
who are dearly missed,  
and who taught me  
Firsthand the Joys of Fatherhood....”

- Ringo Chinoy, USA

“Dear Lord, as we start each day  
There’s just one gift for which I pray  
Please watch over all dogs everywhere  
And bless them with someone to care.

Watch over the pups with plenty to eat,  
And the hungry strays out on the street,  
Those getting treats every time they yap,  
And those who struggle for every scrap.

Those that sleep on nice soft beds,  
Those with hard ground under their heads,  
Those who play with girls and boys,  
And those who never have any toys.

Those kept clipped and brushed and clean,  
And scruffy ones that don’t smell too clean,  
Those that get to ride in cars,  
And those that sit in cages with bars.

Those that fail obedience school,  
Dig up the garden, snore and drool,  
Chew up your stuff, chase the cat  
And yet they’re loved in spite of that.

And those that are as good as gold,  
But left out to shiver in the cold-  
Chained up and and forgotten there,  
Longing for a warm home to share.

Please God, as we end each night,  
Help more people do what’s right.  
For every dog they meet, to do their best,  
And send Your comfort to all the rest.”

~ Janice Wolf.



Courtesy : Mrs. Shernaz Chinoy



# Zoo or Ani-jail

वो जंगल था जहां रहते थे हम  
ये सर्कस है जहां तोड़ते हैं दम

**LIFE IMPRISONMENT !**

**with  
no court  
of appeal !**

**THE TELEGRAPH**  
SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 1996

**CALCUTTANS' COLUMN**

**Plea to shift urban zoos**

■ Apropos Ms Akanksha Sinha's letter, Zoo neglected, published on October 29, our trust has been campaigning against urban zoos, pleading for the animals to be shifted to open-air enclosures in the countryside.

Nobody can deny that it is cruel to take away animals from their natural habitat and condemn them to life imprisonment in areas totally non-conducive to their welfare. A few thousand signatures from like-minded people from all over India have been forwarded to the Central Zoo Authority. "To see what is right and not to do it shows a lack of principles or courage." Let us show that Calcuttans lack neither. We call upon everybody to join our campaign and continue vigorously till the animals are moved to a more conducive environment.

Debasis Chakrabarti  
Compassionate Crusaders' Trust  
1/13A, Olai Chandi Road  
Calcutta 700 037  
Phone: 556 7149, 247 9737

**The Telegraph**  
29.10.1996

**Zoo neglected**

■ The Alipore Zoo has been reduced to a pathetic condition due to neglect of animals by the authorities. Most of the animals are underfed and in need of medical attention. The ponds in the zoo have been converted into dumping grounds, with visitors chucking in all kinds of food and garbage. Most visitors ignore the signs put up in front of the cages and tease the already harassed animals. Children often throw stones and poke the animals with sticks, while their parents look on indulgently. I ask the animal welfare organisations to campaign for a stricter set of laws to prevent such cruelty. Awareness must be raised in children so that they learn to protect their environment.

Akanksha Sinha  
Alipore

**26 JANUARY 1997**

**ENGAGEMENTS**

- Publishers and Bookdealers Guild, Nandan, French Embassy and Alliance Francaise de Calcutta present film festival at Nandan and 9 (91 Jan 28: 14-00 to 18-00)
- S.E. Railway celebrates Republic Day at Garden Reach Headquarters: 07-30
- Biennial conference organised by Radical Humanist Association at 15 Bankim Chatterjee St: 12-00
- Naktale Ananda Ashram Sakila Vidyapeeth observes Republic Day at school premises: 10-30
- Compassionate Crusaders Trust distributes anti-urban zoo leaflets at Calcutta Zoo, Alipore
- New Golden Association organises an in-draw competition at Uttar Adar

**THE TELEGRAPH**  
TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 1997

**CALCUTTA COLUMN**

**Animal farm**

■ At 9 am on republic day, while the parade was in full swing, there was a commotion outside the Alipore zoo. About 20 of our volunteers, aged between 10 and 45 years, were distributing leaflets in Bengali, Hindi and English to the people outside the zoo. Our purpose was to highlight the injustice of imprisoning animals in cages.

The zoo director, Mr A.K. Das, along with a group of employees, tried to stop the volunteers. Only the timely intervention of the police from the Alipore police station made it possible for the volunteers to continue distributing the leaflets. Thankfully, we had anticipated some trouble and informed the police beforehand.

Purnima Trilokidas  
Compassionate Crusaders' Trust  
1/13A, Olai Chandi Road,  
Calcutta 77

जनसंख्या, प्रशासनात, २६ जनवरी १९९७

**'गणतंत्र दिवस पर बंदी पशुओं की रिहाई पर सोचें'**

जनसंख्या सेवासंस्थाद्वारा कलकत्ता, २६ जनवरी '९६ को संचालित से किया यह विधिपरिमल में बंदी पशुओं को अल्पवय कर, इस पर जनसंख्या 'सर्विकों को रोचना: बहिष्कृत' पर अग्रिम है. अल्पवय कुत्तों को छोड़ें. पुरिष्कृत कुत्तोंद्वारा की। अर्थो तबत कि आसानी के पशुमा संगत करु अन्न हों अल्पी विधिमें को रोचना के अन्न हों. विधिमें में बंद पशु पशु परिवर्तों को बिक्रम करी भविष्य होने के बारे में कुछ करना चाहिए।

पशुमा के वार्षिकों में पशु परिवर्तों के प्रति अन्न और कुत्ता अन्नने जहाँ को देखने के लिए विधिपरिमल में रोचना को अल्पवय कुत्तों के परिवर्तों पर विधि अल्पवय देखें। विधिपरिमल

**LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

**with no court of appeal**

अल्पवय कुत्तों की और से लगी रोचना अने वारों को यह आशा करता कि पशुओं को अल्पवय बंदी पशुओं का अल्पवय न किया जाय। पशु के संग पशुओं को अन्न से अने पशुओं में इन पशुओं, पशुमा अन्न के अल्पवय न की। बंदीकरण इन पशुओं के विधिमें में बंदी करने पर भोले-भले लोग पशुओं को अन्न करने जहाँ है।

अल्पवय कुत्तों के एक और छोटी सेवासंस्था अल्पवय में लगे को कि विधिमें विधिपरिमल अल्पवय के अल्पवय अल्पवय विधिपरिमल का दौरा करें। ये पशु जहाँ कि लगे के अल्पवय को विधिपरिमल अल्पवय विधिपरिमल है। अल्पवय पशुमाप भी अल्पवय लगे है। पशु के अल्पवय अल्पवय में इन विधिपरिमल के अल्पवय को पूरा अन्न करने में अन्न चाहिए। लगे पशुमा अल्पवय को अन्न करने देखने जहाँ जहाँ पशु-पशु के अल्पवय को अल्पवय भी का लगे।



# Zoo or Ani-jail

## Life imprisonment with no court of appeal !

We were the first organization in the world to file a case, on Mismanagement & Gross violation of Law in Alipore Zoo in the High Court, way back in November 1998, bringing Central Zoo Authority's role as the

licensing authority into focus and making it accountable. Our case resulted in release of the elephants of Kolkata zoo from the shackles on 1st March, 1999, and lot of improvements subsequently and even effort getting a space outside the city limits for a less cramped zoo. Couple of years back the Indian

chapter of PeTA, USA took the details of that case from CCT and got the Mumbai zoo elephants released.

The Indian Zoo Inquiry; a review of conditions in the Zoos of India by Compassionate Crusaders Trust & Zoo Check, Canada 2006.



Article 51-A(g) of the Indian Constitution- The Fundamental Duties :  
" It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the Natural Environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures."

◀ Rob Ladilow of Zoo Check, Canada & Poorva Joshipura of PeTA, India



## Reminiscences : 24 x 7

Two touching snippets from our 24x7 animal care experience!

### Laloo

The roadside tea shop next to our clinic closes at around nine and the benches outside become night shelters for many. Once I saw a gypsy couple sleeping there with a pie dog, a puppy. All three of them would leave early morning and come back at night. One day the shopkeeper appeared before they could disappear and there was a tantrum. The sound and shouts made me sneak out of my window on the first floor of the clinic. What I saw was the frightened look in the puppy's eyes and its desperate effort to hide. By the time I came back with some 'puppy breakfast' they had disappeared!

After a couple of days, I saw the puppy repeatedly vomiting. As I was in a hurry to go to my village home urgently, I requested my colleagues to take it in for some life support treatment. After I came back on the third day, the puppy was reported 'lost'. Searching frantically, I could find it in the evening hidden under a heap of broken tiles, fast asleep but emaciated, dehydrated and with sub-normal temperature just about faintly pounding heart. After a few days' treatment, he recovered and disappeared again.

A few days passed and I almost forgot the episode as it is a routine kind of job at our clinic. At midnight one day, I came back after attending an emergency and opening the clinic gate, suddenly got a nudge on my leg. The same puppy was squeaking as if trying to 'tell' me something like "you have saved my life, can't you give me a home now?!" ....my young daughter reacted immediately and offered her own dinner to Laloo, the name she gave it.

Since that day, Laloo is permanently stationed at the gate of our clinic greeting each and every patient and owner with a generous wag of his tail "saying" ...."come on in, I owe my life to this clinic!"

~ Subhas Kalsar

[Subhas Kalsar is the chief para-vet and the livewire of our 24hour animal helpline at the Compassionate Crusaders' Centre for Animal Welfare, popular as the Tollygunge Clinic.]



### Bhola

One morning in 1999 just after Durga Puja as I was busy in the clinic with patients, I heard a commotion and came out to find the waiting owners chasing a pie dog away. They complained it was trying to enter the clinic.

In the evening when all of us, the veterinarian, para-vets were relaxing a little after a hectic day, we saw a tan dog enter the clinic and bark. After initial confusion, our senior para-vet Shankar Basak gently approached the dog which lowered the tail in submission right away. A sore inside one of the hind legs was found on the dog. Dr. P.Banerjee and Subhas Kalsar started necessary treatment. We christened him Bhola. After a little rest, Bhola walked out of the clinic in peace.

Next morning we were anxious to find Bhola for dressing but he was nowhere to be seen! When the day got us busy, Bhola appeared suddenly and we all were relieved. He got his treatment done and left, the same routine continuing for three more days. He did not come after that.

I saw Bhola again almost after a year. He was running a high fever and was given treatment and placed in the space just outside the clinic main door. By the evening Bhola had left. We hope to see him again whenever he needs treatment, till then...! God bless him.

~ Amar Nath Ghosh

[Amar Nath Ghosh is the In-Charge of our clinic.]



## The mute sufferers



Where is the Life we have  
lost in living?  
Where is the wisdom we  
have lost in knowledge?  
Where is the knowledge we  
have lost in information?

T.S. Eliot





## Compassionate Poet

### A Private View

By Ruchi Kohli

A short summary of my private views on each of the poems in "A Private View"

**Sightseeing** - Finding happiness within is the true pleasure achieved by giving away what we seek for us.

**Him** - When one loves, sense of self is replaced with the sense of love for the person.

**Desperate** - Hope of being united with your lover within the limited time of life creates desperation and conflict.

**Worth remembering** - Even after life deserts us, there is a Voice to listen to in the silence of Death.

**A Time to Stand** - There is no delaying the moments of positive thoughts in the life passing by fast. Such thoughts are eternal.

**Life** - 'I' and 'Me' limit the self from exploring the true knowledge.

**Beauty** - Beauty may not be noticed but the beauty of love is universally visible.

**Empty** - Desires can never be fulfilled till the mind is free from them and we begin to live freely.

**Positivity** - Seek a source who knows it all to become an energy that does it all.

**Justify** - Almighty is perceived in dimensions not permitted to the conscious mind where judgment resides.

**Freedom of Speech** - An intensely compassionate communication describing misery of the sufferers

**Wisdom** - The only wisdom is to seek the eternal. The wise seeks it.

**Illusion** - Our life is a movie where we dress up to play our parts. Motives are known only at the end.

**Look** - Look at real who wants to be seen. Live with real to possess it all.



**Service** - We came here to serve and this is the only action that defines one.

**Imagination** - Remaining soft and calm like a rabbit in adversity is true test of one's nature.

**Love** - God's will is not to sacrifice a lamb but to give it life.

**Prayer** - An expression of my devotion to a religion of truth

**Answer** - Answer her call by living her message. It is heard in pin drop silence!

**Last call** - Death is the ultimate call of God to test the faith in us of His presence.

**Prayer** - A list of my desires

**Beautiful** - Beauty reveals her secrets to those who know her depth intimately.

**Prayer** - Ego dies as Self emerges.

**Day Dreams** - Awareness radiates from one who experiences to the observer, the latter becoming a part of the process.

**Youth** - Forever Young!

**Inaudible** - Listen to animals whose silence breaks my heart.

**Told** - We should not be afraid of the sights and sounds of the suffering people and animals for they teach us a lot.

**Mummy** - A portrait of my beautiful mother

**Voice** - Actions speak louder than words.

**Religion** - God has no religion. God is love. – Gandhi

**Hide and seek** - Awareness finds out hidden pain and suffering.

**Truth** - Truth being transparent is simple and clear holding a power to set one free.

**Tears** - Our grieving memories make up for the physical absence.

**Snow** - Future – who knows?

**Time** - I am formless!

**Farewell** - His soul lives forever, not limited by time. I miss you more than you ever imagined.

**Love** - I love you!

**Time** - Waiting at the gates of eternity to reunite me with my father

**Sound** - The Almighty blesses with vision when our self emerges after death of ego.

**Insight** - Insight brings vision to see that life of spirit begins and ends with love.

**Life** - Seeded with grace this life of mine

**Song** - Uni-Verse – One song.

Animals have a voice inaudible to us creating a tune that's symphony of sound -love.

**Nibbles Goes Green: Summary**  
In the book, a bunny rabbit named Nibbles learning the magical power of his thoughts explores a wonderful world where Nature comes alive to show the importance of a healthy environment. Her adventures take her to another part of the world where things aren't right without anybody knowing what is missing. This journey of discovery begins because of a special attachment Nibbles has with a tree, her best friend. Nibbles and her friends show a child how to live happily and make a better world.



# Sunderbans

## Tiger straying into villages .....some stray thoughts !

The Sundarbans forest is the world's only mangrove forest with tigers, popularly known as Bengal Tiger and Sunderbans National Park is featured as one of the Unesco- World Heritage Site.

Since last couple of years the invasion of tiger in villages of Sunderbans grew rapidly. Reasons are diverse, shrinking habitat due to climate change and cyclones Sidr and Aila, which left behind a trail of devastation since 2007, forced many a Royal Bengal tiger to migrate from Bangladesh into the Indian side of the Sundarbans island. Wildlife experts say a good number of tigers might have come into the Indian forests in search of food. The number of documented tiger attacks has soared. According to villagers, there have been 15 already this year, six of them fatal. The ranks of the tiger widows are swelling, and the horrifying tales are multiplying. In the village of Deulbari in Kultali, everyone knows someone who has been attacked by a tiger. Until now, humans and tigers have coexisted uneasily in this outpost in the Sundarbans area of West Bengal. This year has been different. The tigers, having been uprooted from its usual terrain, has developed a taste for human flesh. In a nutshell, the reasons of the invasion is shortage of food and shrinkage of their core habitat.

Villagers are now more aware of Tiger conservation and the Villagers' view are also no less diverse. 'There is a lot of mental pressure trying to tackle this situation, 'We have always lived with tigers. It is part and parcel of life here,' 'This conflict will continue because the man-eaters are looking for humans. 'Once they have the taste of human flesh, they will always look for it.' 'We love tigers, we can't hate them. They are unavoidable, they are part of the place. There are a lot of tigers around now, but without the tigers it would not be the same jungle.' "We've not seen such a rise in the past 25 years."

Better late than never, the year 2009 started with a positive input from the authorities; an expert committee comprising senior officials from the related state departments, several wildlife experts, especially those who deal with tiger-related issues, experts from the Zoological Survey of India, representatives from the Wildlife Institute of India and faculty members of Calcutta University's zoological department, is to be set up to monitor the activities of man eaters, as such big cats are called. It will try to find out why the tigers are attacking villagers - officially, there have been at least six such cases in the past year, but many more are suspected to have gone unrecorded. It will also suggest steps to prevent such crises. Let us hope for the best !



1. Two Wild Boars in the sweet-water pond. Ajmalmari # 7..SBR
2. Track mark of Spotted Deer. Kalash Island.SBR
3. Peerkhali. Red cloth (locally called "Jhamti") indicating the Human casualty. STR
4. In search for the Pugmark. Forest Guard Pradip. Kalash Island. SBR
5. A Cheeked Keelbak hunting a Lyatha Fish. Kalash.SBR



# Wildlife Rescue



When you defile the  
pleasant streams And the  
wild bird's abiding place,  
You massacre a million  
dreams And cast your  
spittle in God's face.

John Drinkwater







# Campaigns



আমরাই তো মাকে নিয়ে আসি  
তবু কেন আমাদের এই অবহেলা?



18 JANUARY 1997

ENGAGEMENTS

- 60th anniversary festival of Howrah Samaj Nader Nerali Mandir 18/ Jan 20: 18-00
- UBI (Paikpara) organises blood donation camp at bank premises: 14-00
- Indo-English poetry reading session at Max Mueller Bhavan: 18-00
- An evening of Kenji Miyazawa stories performed by Yoko Hayashi at Sisir Mancha: 18-00
- Bikash Bharati Welfare Society organises pulse polio programme at Yuba Jaganan Club Maidan, Baranagore.
- Compassionate Crusaders Trust holds talk on prevention of cruelty to animals at Academy of Fine Arts: 14-00



If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear. ~ George Orwell



biology is a **LIFE** science  
**Not** a **DEATH** science



Animal Welfare Law in urgent need in China

By Ms. Wu Tianyu,  
President of Animal Rescue Beijing, China  
June 23, 2005



# Youngest Crusader

Dwaipayan Das became an active volunteer of the Compassionate Crusaders at the age of four years, way back in 1994. He had been a keen rescuer of puppies, kittens, fledglings and would even pluck grass from his house lawn to feed the passing calves. His first ceremonial assignment at the age of six, was of greeting the British Deputy High

Commissioner, our guest of honor at the launching of CCT's Pet-Aid animal ambulance, sponsored by the RSPCA, UK. At the age of eight, he also was part of our delegation to the Governor, for presentation of a memorandum to stop animal-sacrifice in the name of religion. He continues with his active rescue since the day one.





# Republic Day Parade



1



2



3

- 1 Award time-2000
- 2 Tableau to campaign for the rights of the captive animals-1999
- 3 The moment of national pride
- 4 & 6 Performers' campaign for cruelty-free animal life-1998
- 5 Mobile animal-care units' contingent- 2001



4



5



6



# Republic Day Parade



Award time-2001 ▲



Award time-2000 ▼



Mobile animal-care units' ▼ contingent- 2000



## Article Contributors

**Mrs. Apala Chakravarti**  
Formerly a Reader of the Rabindra Bharati University.



**Mr. Aniruddha Chakrabarti**  
Ari, to his friends, is a 24 year old engineer working at a Solar technology company in Perth, Western Australia. One of his favorite pastimes was to walk with his friend, a Golden Retriever named “Monty” spending time to enjoy and contemplate life. Though Monty has since passed away, Ari still likes to reflect on the lessons that they learned together and shares one of them with us in his article “The Golden Rule”.



**Mrs. Anita Nag**  
An ardent animal lover. She has been an article writer and a regular contributor to the tabloids and magazines.



**Mr. Babi Nobis**  
Our Chairman., is an ace wildlife photographer and works in the area of tiger conservation too.

**Mr. Chandī Das Lahiri**  
Better known as CHANDI, a cartoonist par excellence of international repute.

**Mr. Debasish Bandyopadhyay**  
A writer, folklorist, editor and above all a lover of wildlife & nature.



**Dr. Dhrubajyoti Ghosh**  
A UN Global 500 laureate for conservation of water resources. He is the Regional Vice Chairman, South Asia, Commission on Ecosystem Management, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Dr. Jonathan Balcombe, PhD**  
Author of “Second Nature: The Inner Lives of Animals” (Palgrave Macmillan, March 2010)  
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**Mr. Koustuv Bandyopadhyay**  
Apu is one the most active compassionate crusaders. He is a multi talented creative person.



**Mr. K.P.S. Menon**  
KPS junior, our Patron, an avid reader and always ready to support the right cause.

**Mrs. Lalitha Menon**  
Aptly spiritual and an active supporter of every good cause prompted by her varied experience of social problems across the world. She is the wife of our Patron.



## Article Contributors



### Colonel M.Z.U. Siddiquie

Zahid, An Armoured Corps Officer of the Indian Army. He has been decorated with the gallantry award of "SENA MEDAL" by President of India.

Academically inclined, he is a post graduate in Chemistry, Defence & Strategic Studies & MBA and is now pursuing his Doctorate. He writes on various social and professional issues. Above all a passionate compassionate crusader.



### Ms. Pamela D. Barton M.B.E.

Animal activist for five decades with SPCA, HONG KONG.

### Ms. Ruchi Kohli

Born in New Delhi, India and moved to USA at the age of nine. Took an interest in writing poetry as a means to bring about an awareness of the nature of things that take place in everyday life. Her interests include politics, social justice towards all humans and animals, advancement in modern medicine and has committed to authoring books as all the proceeds from sales are being donated to Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. She is presently based in Columbia, USA



### Mr. Rustomji Homusji Mody

Russi, our Chairman Emeritus, was born in 17 January 1918, in Bombay to a prominent Parsi family. His father was Sir Homi Mody, the first Governor of United Provinces. His mother was Lady Jerbai.

Russi has been a guiding star for the 'mutes', supporting the Compassionate Crusaders since its inception.



### Ms. Sarbani Chakraborty

A retired school principal and philanthropist. She has been a 'friend in need' for the compassionate crusaders, supporting both humans & non-humans since the day one.



### Mrs. Sudeshna Bose Bhanja

Daughter of an illustrious father, Late Rathindra Chandra Bose (1918-2003) eminent international cricket umpire & distinguished sports administrator. She is an active member of Angana, the ladies' cultural club of repute.



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Venu Menon Trust

I gazed, and gazed, but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought..

~ W. Wordsworth

## BLUE PAGES

- 24 hour emergency Rescue, Ambulance and Veterinary service. Ph : 2464 7030, Fax : 2546 5548.
- 24 hour emergency Pet Care with Ambulance Service on S. P. Mukherjee Rd., Kolkata-700 026. Ph : 2464 7030.
- Karuna Kunj : Shelter for destitute dogs and cats, and rescued birds. Burial ground for pets. Located near Bibirhat on the Bakhrahat Rd., South 24 Parganas. Ph : 2868 0526.
- Horse Treatment Camp every Sunday at 9 am with help from the Army personnel, at the Fountain of Joy, opposite the Victoria Memorial.
- Mass sterilization of street dogs and anti-rabies vaccinations for dogs : Contact: 2464 7030 or 2210 4365, Fax : 2546 5548.
- Cruelty cases or Wildlife violations : complain at 2464 7030.
- PetXpress trauma care for pets : Contact: 2464 7030.
- "Pet Aid" service available round the clock to take you and your pet to the Clinic or Hospital for check-up, treatment, X-ray, grooming. Contact : 2464 7030.
- "Bon Adieu" service— a Hearse for pets will pick up two family members and pet from the residence, take them to Karuna Kunj and bring back the family members after the pet has been buried with love and dignity. Available round the clock. Contact : 2464 7030 or 2210 4365.

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CONSTITUTION  
OF  
INDIA

- **Article 48-A of the Indian Constitution-The directive principles:**  
The state should protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wild life of the country. This directive was added by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
- **Article 51-A(g) of the Indian Constitution- The Fundamental Duties :**  
"It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the Natural Environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures."