Race to Death for 250 innocent Bunnies
Beauty Without Cruelty
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Magazine edited by Ms. Diana Ratnagar
Cover ‘Race to death’ by Mr. Sunil Malhotra

This issue has been kindly sponsored by
Bulwark Warehousing Co.
Due to the high cost of printing our publications, we have been forced to amalgamate two issues. For the same reason our Hindi magazine has had to be delayed. However, thanks to the generous support of our advertisers and donors, the first issue of "Karuna Mitra" will definitely be released during March 1988.

The article entitled "Live Baits" pertaining to Tiger Tops in Nepal (July-September 1987) brought in a number of cuttings and letters from our readers about live baits being used in India. A personal representation to the Ministry of Environment & Forests was immediately made by Beauty Without Cruelty; and followed up by a letter to all the Chief Wildlife Wardens in various States. So, let us hope that this barbaric, cruel and unlawful practice will be discontinued forthwith in all parts of our country. (See page 8.)

Bird hits have cost airlines a fortune. And another fortune has been spent on trying to avoid them. But, neither bird-scare units, nor trained falcons, nor the National Aeronautical Laboratory's movable light, nor the Indian Air Force's bird hazard combat team, have been able to eradicate the birds around our airports. The Gas Turbine Research Institute at Bangalore has gone a step further by spending vast sums of money on unnecessary, unscientific and cruel experiments involving the firing of live birds at speeds upto 700 km per hour into running jet engines. And this only in order to study the effects of the bird hits!

Others such as the Bombay Natural History Society and Beauty Without Cruelty, have pointed out that the prime reason for such accidents is the presence of slaughter-houses in the vicinity of airports. Another reason is the practice by municipal authorities of dumping garbage nearby. No doubt, these factors are of importance, nevertheless, the national airline of Japan, called All Nippon Airways, seems to have solved the problem in a very amazingly simple way.

Information & Action

All Nippon Airways has been painting "eyes" on its fleet of Boeing 747 jets. The eye is said to be 80 cm in diameter, in black and white paint. It has resulted in a 15% decrease in bird hits for Boeing 747 and a slightly larger percentage for Boeing 767. Moreover, in 1987 there has been no incident of bird-hits suffered by All Nippon Airways.

So now, Air India has also taken up painting an "eye" on its jets:

The persistent droughts in India have resulted in the death of thousands of animals. This year the situation is particularly grave. Shoes, plastic bags and mud are some of the things found in the stomachs of those poor animals which have succumbed.

A few days ago I visited the Deonar Abattoir and was terribly moved to see many more animals from the drought affected areas of Saurashtra etc. which had landed up at this slaughter house.

The Government, as well as several voluntary organisations have set up Cattle Camps where relief is given to thousands of animals. Beauty Without Cruelty has been instrumental in obtaining some donations from abroad — to date the Royal S.P.C.A. has sent £1,000/- and the World Society for the Protection of Animals £500/-. The amounts have been given to Shri Sarva Seva Sangh, Kutch and The Bhansali Trust.

Diana Ratnagar
Chairperson
Good News
Humane stitches for surgery
Realising the origin of catgut (cat, pig, goat) some people in India have been requesting their surgeons to use Vycril by Johnson & Johnson. Recently, another non-animal fibre for surgical stitches called Katselon has been developed by The Research Institute of Chemistry & Cotton Pulp Technology and the Medical Institute in Tashkent. Based on cotton pulp, in comparison with catgut which has been in use for 2,000 years, clinical tests have revealed that Katselon accelerates healing and does not cause tissue inflammation.

P.M. helps save Whale
While on holiday at Lakshadweep, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, with the help of local people, managed to return to sea a huge whale which had strayed into the shallow waters of the lagoon. It took 90 minutes to tie the whale and push it into the sea. The P.M.’s spontaneous act to save the whale in distress has pleased animal lovers all over the world.

Tunnels of love
The British have once again proved their great love for animals. A toad tunnel has been opened on a busy motorway just west of London. Thousands of toads wishing to cross the motorway will now be safe.

In France, a similar tunnel is being built under the tracks of a new high-speed railway line between Paris and Bordeaux. The toads will be the first creatures to benefit from animal subways.

Life for Life
At last in Zimbabwe’s Zambezi valley the fight to save the black rhino from extinction is beginning to show results. The reason: Government patrols have been authorised to shoot poachers on sight. Rangers try to stop hunters without bloodshed and have so far captured 21 poachers and killed 29 — but the gangs keep coming. An illicit $3 million-a-year trade is at stake.

News: Good & Bad
Bad News
“Shock rock” shocks
At a concert in Berkeley, Feederz, the leader of a band called “Shock Rock” in America wore live insects cemented to his head and carried dog and cat carcasses into the hall over his shoulders and tossed them into the audience. Some fans stomped and quashed the carcasses while others screamed in objection and complained to the Police. Officials of The Humane Society of the United States' were called in to investigate.

Cuban ritual
In back rooms of private homes in Miami, white robed Cuban priests gather their followers by candlelight and plunge knives into live goats, pigs and roosters. The ritual called Santeria is performed on a regular basis in South Florida's Cuban exile community. The purpose, they say, is to bring legitimacy to a religion that is associated with decapitated livestock, mystical potions and black magic.

Butterflies held captive
There has been a dramatic expansion in Britain’s multi-million pound butterfly house industry which now has nearly 50 such houses as against just 1 or 2 in the late seventies. A butterfly house is a mini-zoo where butterflies from India, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and 21 other countries are released inside a heated glasshouse. Four million visitors a year are spending five million pounds supporting this new phenomenon.

Massacre of millions of Migrants
Millions of migratory birds are killed every year on lime-sticks in Cyprus. This common method of bird-catching involves the trapper coating sticks with a sticky substance, bird-lime, and placing them in bushes where birds are known to perch. Birds which rest on these lime-sticks get stuck by their feet or feathers and are roughly pulled off by the trapper on his return. If the bird has not already died, the trapper will usually crush its head or wring its neck. The birds provide a luxury “gourmet delicacy”. Bird-liming is illegal, but unfortunately the Government makes little effort to enforce the law.
Break through in the control of animal population

"Talsur"

For over a hundred years one of the main concerns of all animal charities has been the great number of dogs put to sleep by the Municipal, Police and other authorities. Unwanted dogs have been picked up and destroyed under the fear of them becoming rabid. But, this killing has not resulted in either the number of stray dogs drastically lessening or the cases of dog bites and rabies coming down in number as desired. How could there be success? A single bitch can multiply into 340 females in a span of just three years as has been proved through a computer study.

To overcome the indiscriminate destruction of man’s best friend, till now, animal welfare societies have been fighting a losing battle. They have been propagating the neutering of dogs; mainly spaying of bitches has been advocated, even though castration operations on male dogs have also been encouraged. However, these operations are a costly and lengthy process, needing medical attention for up to a period of 10 days.

The future of the dogs of the world seemed to be very bleak... but need not be bleak any more...

The National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, has pioneered a wonder-drug which castrates male animals. The once-in-a-life-time injection is called "Talsur", aptly named after Prof. G.P. Talwar (Director) and Dr. Anil K. Suri (Scientist) of the institute.

The injection works on fully grown/mature male dogs in two ways, depending on the dose administered: (1) Sterilization: the animal will maintain its libido as well as other aggressive and male qualities; (2) Castration: the animal will become completely sterile, have no desire to mate and be docile. For both sterilization and castration, the injection is a once-in-

a-life-time dose. (Sterilization has been particularly successful in a large number of bulls.)

For over a year, the Delhi Municipal Corporation has been using the injections on stray male dogs. In four of the ten sectors of the capital, squads have been injecting the animals after sunset till past midnight. The number of dog bites and rabies cases are said to have reduced and the dog population has been considerably controlled in these areas.

Further trials on 16 male dogs which could be observed daily were carried out in December 1987 and January 1988 under the auspices of the Poona S.P.C.A. and the Blue Cross of India, Madras. Dr. Suri himself taught the local Veterinary Doctors the method of injecting the animals. There have been no adverse effects due to the injection on any of these dogs. Their appetite and movements have been absolutely normal through out. However, they did undergo a short period of inflammation which is essential for the castration process which is completed 4 to 6 weeks later.

It is hoped that with the wide-spread use of "Talsur", unwanted litters will not be born. In which case there will be no stray dogs to be destroyed by the authorities.

As the National Institute of Immunology are awaiting world patent rights on "Talsur", the injections are not freely available. However, those societies which wish to obtain them or have any particular inquiries should write to

Diana Ratnagar, P.B. 18, Poona 411 001.
The Spanish feel that bullfights attract tourists. Let us not make it so — there are already many people who do not visit Spain because of its bullfights. Not even with the newly added attraction of the only woman matador in the world who is all set to acquire the ultimate honour for a bullfighter — a goring by the bull.

Bullfighting can certainly not be termed a "sport"; this savage display of blood that sacrifices a noble and valiant animal with so much suffering in the name of entertainment. About 6,000 bulls are killed in Spanish arenas each year.

The bullfight is claimed to be a "life or death fight" between man and bull. It is nothing of the sort. Before entering the arena, the bull is handicapped, its horns are filed down, vaseline is smeared into its eyes to blur its vision, the lance cuts deeply into the bull's neck muscles causing profuse bleeding thus weakening it & making it painful for the animal to raise its head and the banderillas stabbed into its back cause intense pain & further loss of blood.

To show his skill, the matador is supposed to thrust a long, narrow sword between the bull's shoulderblades and into the heart. Very few matadors have the skill to kill the bull in this manner and it takes several repeated thrusts into the bull's body until the animal collapses. If it still remains alive, a dagger is stabbed into its neck, immobilising it. The final disgrace is for the ears and tail of the live bull to be cut off and tossed to the crowd.

An eminent Rabbi has ruled that Jewish religious law bars Jews from attending bullfights. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, nor Islam are any different in their teachings.

If tourists to Spain refrain from attending this horrific torture, bullrings would have to close down. So make sure you don't witness a bullfight.

Visiting Spain?

Nada es más degradante y vil que gozar con el sufrimiento.

NO ASISTAS A LAS CORRÍDAS DE TOROS

Nothing is more degrading and vile than to take pleasure in the infliction of pain.

DO NOT ATTEND BULLFIGHTS.
The matador thrusts his sword deep into the unprotected neck. The beast staggers and falls.

But, instead of “Ole”, this is one “bull-fight” ritual that makes any sane person want to cry: “Oh no!”

For the matador is just a trainee. His victim no raging bull, but a helpless cow.

It exposes the sickening secret behind the bullfights being enjoyed by thousands of holidaymakers.

Away from the sunshine and the gory glamour of the ring, hundreds of inoffensive beasts are clumsily put to death to enable tomorrow’s matador heroes to sharpen their killing skills.

The hideous slaughter takes place every week in abattoirs all over Spain. The abattoir owners, often bullfight fans themselves, are happy to provide the living target on which the novices can learn their deadly craft.

The doomed animals are herded into a narrow pen where, perched safely out of reach on a high wall, the matadors wait with their swords.

Sometimes it takes three or four bloody thrusts before the cows are put out of their misery.

On a single morning in a slaughterhouse on the outskirts of Madrid, I watched one young bullfighter with dreams of glory ruthlessly despatch no less than FORTY cows.

His name is Andres Caballero and he hopes his diligent practice will make him rich and famous as a top matador.

The slaughterhouse men — used to blood and death — watch intently as the 20-year-old novice goes about his business.

The cold steel glints as he thrusts the sword into the back of the animal’s neck. It is a quick, clean kill and, as the dead cow falls to its knees before being dragged away, the abattoir workers murmur appreciatively.

Trainee matadors put trapped cows to the sword — for practice!

Sickening!

Paul Davidson

Then the next cow is led in. Then the next. Caballero works hard. Sweat runs down his brow and neck and small blisters swell up on his right palm.

He is perfecting the “descabello” — the deadly thrust to the neck used by matadors to despatch bulls with a single, swift strike. Caballero has to get it right because to take two or more blows to kill the animal is failure in the eyes of the bullfight crowd... and he will be booed out of the arena.

The spot he is aiming for is little bigger than a 50 pence piece and the sword is designed with a T-bar two inches from the end. If he strikes right first time he will sever the animal’s spinal cord without the sword entering too deeply into the flesh.

But, in the heat of the slaughterhouse, he sometimes misses. Then a second blow is needed, or a third, or a fourth.

When that happens, the cows scream before they collapse, while the slaughterhouse men discuss what went wrong.

Before the morning is through Caballero has killed more than forty cows. Others have been even more hideously butchered by the abattoir workers themselves — taking turns with the sword while the young bullfighter rests.

Just 36 hours later, he has another appointment with death. In the tiny bullring in the sleepy town of Saint Sever in Southern France he acknowledges the cheers of an ecstatic crowd as he kisses the severed ears of a bull.

It is the sixth he has killed that day. He throws up his arms in jubilation as the blood runs down his lips.

As a boy, living in a working-class district of Madrid, Caballero went to the bullfights with his father. When his father died, his mother used every peseta they had to
send the youngster away to a boarding-school for bullfighters.
For three years he learnt the etiquette and skills of bullfighting as well as history and maths. But he still needs to perfect his touch before he can become a real matador.

So he carries on learning his death and gory game in the provincial bullrings of Spain and Southern France.
Or in the abattoirs where the killing is that much easier...

Courtesy: THE PEOPLE

Bell tolls for a Bull’s torture by blowpipe

The tolling of a giant bell of the cathedral in Coria, Western Spain, marks the start of the feast of San Juan.
A few minutes later, as dawn breaks over the distant mountains, a bull is released into the centre of the town. For a while the creature trots bewildered and confused along the deserted, cobbled streets.
Then, from the windows and balconies up above, a great roar goes up. Suddenly, a long metal dart with ribbons fluttering behind it, flies through the air and embeds itself in the bull’s neck.
And the systematic three-hour torture of a helpless animal begins.

Moments later more darts launched from the safety of protected steel stands and balconies overlooking the streets, penetrate the bull’s tough skin. It is not unusual to see people stamping on the bull’s back as it passes.
Whichever way the terrified beast staggers, a stream of mini-arrows rain down on him. Some penetrate his hide, others pierce the tender skin of his face and hit his eyes.
Frothing at the mouth, and with blood oozing from around 200 wounds, the bull eventually begins to weaken.
Then, and only then, his frenzied tormentors venture closer. Some play at matadors, continually stabbing the distraught animal.
Eventually the bull is able to stand no

Gerald Kemp
more. It sinks to its knees before being dispatched by a bullet through the brain. Over the five-day "festival", nine other bulls meet their deaths in a similar fashion. One of the most important men in the dusty town of Coria (a five-hour drive from Madrid) is Pedro Clemente. For at his own "darts factory" he makes the cruel weapons which are fired through blowpieces at the bull. "I don't charge any thing for the darts I make. They are completely free," he boasts.

"Each bull takes around 150 to 200 darts. They are not really affected by them but they do get a bit mad when the darts are fired into their mouths and around their eyes. It's all tradition. The darts are to make the bull look pretty. It's simply for adornment."

Clemente feels the bull's torture is most "fascinating" and says that part of the festival involves a prize for the first man to reach the dead bull. The man accompanies the dead animal to the slaughterhouse and is presented with the results of the animal's castration as a souvenir "of his bravery."

In 1986 a man was killed by a bull "during all the fun". As the man was crossing the street, the bull picked him up on its horns. The festival is declared of touristic interest by the Ministry of Tourism in Madrid. It is believed that the bull is very strong and it is the people who have to defend themselves against the bull. It has to be a big bull because a small one might act the coward and ruin the festival.

In Madrid, Ms. Mila Sanz de Galdeano, President of the Association for the Defence of Animal Rights, is determined to halt the illtreatment of bulls. "How can they say the bull doesn't mind being tortured?" she says. "These people in Coria deliberately shoot darts at the bull's face and testicles. It is completely inhuman. They are just barbarians down there."

Courtesy: THE SUNDAY EXPRESS (U.K.)

The Fire Bulls of Segorbe

The highlight of an annual fiesta in Spain is the spectacle of "Toros Embolados". Tar is stuck on the bulls' horns in the shape of a ball and set alight. On fire, the terrified animals are chased through the streets of the town. It takes little imagination to realise the agonizing pain this causes, when the heat from the flames of the dripping tar, reaches the sensitive nerves that run up from the base of the horns.

The animals are terribly burnt around the head and neck; often their eyes are completely burnt out. During this torture which lasts until the animal collapses from exhaustion and the horrific injuries it suffers, the townspeople attack and maltreat the bull in their traditional manner, kicking, hitting, stabbing the dying animal in every sadistic way imaginable.

Courtesy: FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY IN EUROPE

Schools for Slaughter

Children from eight years of age upwards are being taught the history, theory — and practice — of slaughtering bulls for entertainment in Spain's "matador schools".

The World Society for the Protection of Animals' Spanish Dy. President claims "It is illegal for children under 14 years of age to attend bullfights in Spain, yet here we have our Government supporting schools where children are taught how to conduct and appreciate such a cruel spectacle."

The bullfight schools are seen as a desperate effort to keep young people interested in what used to be considered Spain's "National Sport". Today, the Spanish anti-bullfight campaign uses the slogan: "Bullfighting is neither art nor culture — it is Spain's national shame!"

Courtesy: ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL
16th December, 1987

To All Chief Wildlife Wardens

Dear Sir,

As it is understood that live baits are being used in sanctuaries and other wild life areas of India, we would like to bring it to your notice that it is unlawful to do so and request you to kindly use your good offices to ensure that the practice is immediately stopped.

We quote from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' Act, 1960 (59 of 1960) [As amended upto 30th July, 1982]
Chapter III Cruelty to Animals Generally Section 11 (1)
If any person -- (m) (1) confines or causes to be confined any animal [including tying of an animal as a bait in a tiger or other sanctuary] so as to make it as object of prey for any other animal; --- he shall be punishable...

We will appreciate hearing from you concerning the action taken to stop live baits being used in your area and your assurance that it will not be used in future as a tourist attraction or for any other reason whatsoever.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

[Diana Ratnagar]
Chairperson, BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY India Branch & Member, ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA.
Race to Death

Guru Nanak said "The highest religion is to consider all creatures as your equals". Yet, a local coursing club of Phagwara in Punjab organised a three-day race in early January 1988. About 175 specially trained greyhounds participated in pairs—chasing, catching and tearing apart over 250 rabbits.

Four gory photographs obtained by the United News of India were published in leading newspapers. Outraged readers from different parts of the country wrote not only to the publishers,

but also to various animal welfare societies demanding that something be done quickly to stop such a barbaric sport.

Beauty Without Cruelty immediately sent a representation to the President of India pointing out that it was unlawful under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India, who is also the Animal Husbandry Commissioner in the Ministry of Agriculture is investigating the issue and taking necessary action.

Beauty Without Cruelty hopes that the authorities will act fast in putting an immediate end to greyhound racing which is nothing but a display of sadistic pleasure and possible monetary gain for the organisers and spectators.

Readers are requested to write protest letters to:
The President of India
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi
The adult prisoner who would be rated by his wardens as highly violent might typically have spent a good part of his childhood doing unspeakable things to animals, according to a survey conducted in two US penitentiaries.

The study of 152 men, 102 of them in either of two federal prisons and 50 from the ordinary citizenry, found that 25 per cent of “aggressive” criminals could recall five or more occasions when, as children, they had been cruel to animals. For prisoners classed (on a 1-10 scale) as “moderately aggressive” and “non-aggressive,” the percentages were 5.6 and 5.8, and for non-prisoners the percentage was zero.

When account was taken of the social acceptability of certain types of cruelty (for example, throwing a cat into an incinerator and shooting a deer are both instances of killing for amusement, but one is more respectable that the other) and when the degree of torture was also graded on an awfulness scale, the difference was even more pronounced.

For aggressive criminals, 75 per cent of whom were the products of violent families, mistreatment of animals was fairly interspersed with mistreatment of people, and 61 per cent—compared with 9.6 per cent of non-aggressive criminals and 4 per cent of non-criminals—“often” had fights with other children.

When men who had been cruel were asked why, their answers fell in any of nine categories:

1. To control an animal. Dogs, apparently, got the brunt of this and, instead of being trained normally, were often kicked, beaten or worse (cattle prods, etc.).

2. To take revenge against an animal. One man, for example, had retaliated against a scratching cat by burning it alive.

3. Prejudice. Cats, being “sneaky” and “treacherous,” suffered greatly — and often at great length — as did snakes and rats.

4. To create a medium of aggression. Dogs, again, would be cruelly trained so that they, in turn, might be fierce.

5. To impress others. Motorcycle-gang members would use animals as foils to compare their talents for violence...

6. Jokes. Exploding frogs, etc.

7. To take revenge. Harming people’s pets, for example, was seen as a way of harming the people.

8. Frustration. Extreme elaborations on getting kicked and then kicking the dog.

9. Sadism. This was the most creative category and, as usual, the hardest to explain, but one interesting motivation ventured by one prisoner was “a fascination with the boundary between life and death” (philosophy, psychology?).

The conclusion of the study — which was conducted at federal penitentiaries in Leavenworth, Kansas, and Danbury, Connecticut, by Stephen R. Kellert (already well known for his pioneering research on public attitudes to animals) and Alan R. Felthous, on behalf of the World Society for the Protection of Animals — suggests that “a more gentle and benign relationship in human society might be enhanced by a promotion of a more positive and nurturing ethic between children and animals.”

This follows upon a premise in the introduction which points out that the animals’ lot improved considerably when, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, people began keeping pets, and so got to know them as individuals.

On the other hand, it was mainly towards their pets that the future convicts were most beastly. They could have been encouraged to be otherwise, but nobody was around to do that. On the contrary, most of the adults in their lives were cruel to them. Another conclusion might be that animals will fare a lot better when people start being kinder to each other.

Cruelty begins with Rover

TIM KIRBY
Compassion Outgrown

In the days when David Paterson was head of biology at several different schools, he was consistently struck by the fact that, while young children seemed to be empathetic towards animals and to have a good grasp of their needs and probable feelings, many of the younger biology teachers seemed to have grown out of those qualities and had "a dichotomous approach to living things which I thought to be at variance with the basic tenets of biological theory”

Now that Paterson is Director of the British Veterinary Association’s new Animal Welfare Foundation, he is in a position to study this phenomenon, and has begun by making a detailed survey — of a sample of about 900, almost all between the ages of nine and fifteen — on children’s attitudes to animals. Though it is still uncertain just why people become more callous as they get older, he has at least been able to establish statistically that they most certainly do.

* It is when they are eight years old that children are most likely to make the transition from seeing animals as story-book characters to seeing them more or less as they are.

* Young children’s favourite zoo animal was the chimpanzee, and all of the animals at the top of the list were, apart from dogs, the ones that most resembled humans facially. Girls prefer cats to dogs, and boys vice versa. But when girls get older their favourite animal is the horse, a creature boys are indifferent to. Young children tend to like big animals, and older children like little ones.

* The elephant and the giraffe were consistently near the bottom of the list, and the animals that were most actively disliked were the ones perceived to be dangerous — snakes and especially spiders. The most disliked mammal was the rat.

* Acts that, say, an average animal-welfare campaigner would describe as cruel, children also saw as cruel. Girls were significantly more sensitive to cruelty than boys.

* Using factory methods on farms, training animals to perform in circuses and keeping wild animals captive in zoos were considered cruel: keeping them in safari parks was a little less so. When asked whether the animals or the humans got more benefit out of the preceding arrangements, the children, even the youngest ones, had no doubt that it was the humans.

* Most children would rather study animals in the wild rather than in the laboratory. "There was also a good knowledge of topical issues relating to wild animals.”

* Foohunting was generally seen as cruel, except by girls in the top social class. Interviews found a correlation between this attitude and interest in riding.

* A very high percentage were against biology-class dissection, mainly because of what had been involved for the animal. Almost none were in favour of testing cosmetics on animals, and a large majority were against testing medicines. It was all right to kill farm animals for food, but wrong by nine to one, to kill wild animals for any of their products. Children were generally unaware of how farm animals are killed, and many younger children did not know where common animal products came from.

* Generally, girls were far more sensitive to possible animal suffering than boys, and young children more sensitive than older ones. Given a choice between violent and non-violent television programmes, most children chose the latter.

One of Paterson’s proposals for restoring childhood sensibilities at least to biology teachers was an in-service training programme. This has now been implemented by several education authorities working with the R.S.P.C.A.’s education department.
Leap year, a leap into freedom

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

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

And here was Ms Virginia McKenna, who played Joy Adamson in the film (Ms Adamson was murdered tragically in 1981 by a sacked employee), actually chatting with me in the lounge of the Windsor Manor on Tuesday, 24 November!

Ms McKenna and her husband Mr. Bill Travers were in Bangalore to briefly oversee their "Operation Tiger," which involved the rehabilitation of six young, healthy and splendid tigers from a narrow, filthy cage in England to the relatively freer spaces of Bannerghatta Safari Park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A new enclosure of more than 12 acres, designed as prime tiger habitat, is to be the nature of this happy ending. As Ms McKenna wrote in the “Zoocheck” Journal:

"Not, perhaps, the one that nature would have intended for them, but at least a life where they can feel the earth and grass under their feet, lie in the shade of a tree, swim in a pool, and, in the stillness of the Indian twilight, see only shadows in front of them, not bars.”

At Windsor Manor Lounge

I asked Ms McKenna the inevitable question about the making of “Born Free.” How did she and Mr. Travers work so closely with those full-grown lions? Did the
beasts have their lips sewn with needles and thread, as happens with tigers in Indian films, tea advertisements and so on?

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

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

George Adamson

Sad, impoverished and alone, past eighty, George Adamson still battles poachers valiantly and serves the cause of wildlife and other wildlife products continues to thrive and to deplete various animal species alarmingly, the battle of the idealists and animal welfarists continues, perhaps never to end.

Leap for life

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

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

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

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

at the isolated Kora National Reserve some 340 kilometres northeast of Nairobi, Kenya. As international trade in ivory, skins a circus towards a map of India with Bangalore marked out with a conspicuous dot. The caption edging the card reads: “The nocturnal terror in gold, red-fire coated, green fire-eyed, The fanged, the clawed, the frightful leaper, Great-sinewed, silent walker”
“if having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than man”. This is not the saying of any Philosopher, but of James Herriot, the famous American Veterinarian. The World Day for Animals—observed on the 4th October is the birthday of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. The saint could talk to birds and tame the wolf of Gubbio because these creatures somehow reflect Francis’ own soul, full of love, kindness and peace.

Endowed with incomparably greater brain power than that of any other animal, man has harnessed and exploited the animal kingdom for his needs and fancies. Man has killed other species for food, but never with the ruthlessness of today. People all over the world led simple unsophisticated but wholesome lives till recent times. The dawn of civilization began with taming and domestication of animals. They were hunted and then raised for meat, but otherwise man lived in comparative harmony and balance with all other God’s creatures. The pattern and pace of life has drastically changed following great leaps in technology: life nevertheless remains the eternal miracle, in which mystics of all ages and climes have seen the power of God. Reverence for life is a recognition of this miracle and genuine homage to the universally manifest power in all creation. The noble instincts of ‘love, loyalty and gratitude’, which are crushed under the jackboots of ruthless exploitation, often masquerading as ‘progress’ need to be urgently retrieved. Man is undoubtedly the apex of creation, but fails to qualify as its crest jewel without the innate sensitiveness and moral stature to justify it.

The impracticability of mankind as a whole giving-up animal food is too obvious to require elaboration. This does not however detract from the value of vegetarianism as a way of life. There are aspects of this philosophy which even non-veg-

Voice for the voiceless

B.G. Prasad

Vegetarianism does not mean the mere giving up of flesh eating. It is something far greater if considered from the ethical, moral, spiritual, religious, health and aesthetic points of view. The Upanishads highlight the virtue of Satvic food, as food affects thinking. It is not merely accidental that some master minds and great thinkers have been vegetarians. Mahatma Gandhi’s advocacy of the vegetarian cause is only too recent and well known. However, a great many persons will be astonished to know that the ancient Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras forbade serving of meat at his table saying — “Alas! what a monstrous crime it is that entrails should be entombed in entrails”. Christian scriptures quote God as saying — “Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed and every tree in which is fruit; to you it shall be for meat”. Even an agnostic and cynic like Bernard Shaw, the famous English playwright said, “I am a human being and not a yard for dead animals”. Ravindranath Tagore became a vegetarian after he once witnessed a fowl running away crying, with a man trying to catch and kill it in hot pursuit. It leads us to the question of prevention of cruelty to animals and promotion of kindness as a positive virtue. This should be the primary concern of everybody, of non-vegetarians as much as vegetarians, to have this awareness.

“Man kills in one day more cattle than all the carnivorous animals do in a hundred years” — said the great Tamil saint Thiruvalluvar. Likewise considerable number of laboratory animals are subjected to avoidable suffering (though alternate methods do often exist), and painful death in the name of medical research. Tens of thousands of baby seals are hunted and numerous snakes killed for their skins to provide novelties for fashion.
conscious people. The spiritual consciousness in man should be awakened to feel the agony of animals to at least alleviate their misery in life and death.

In order for conservation to become a peoples', as distinct from government's programme, educational and mass media should give a lot more attention to disseminate information and highlight what needs to be done. Time was not very long ago when majestic herds of elephants, bison and deer roamed our forests. We have come to nearly the end of that era. It is therefore vitally important to understand the need for not disturbing nature's balance, preserve our heritage, and leave it at least further undiminished to future generations.

The way of the jackal

By 2 p.m. I had cashed the cheque for Rs.20,000.00 and filled the canvas bag with small denomination notes, to pay the labour force. Major Pak Charles, the boss-man, had taken on a contract to put up an earthworks dam across the river Tawa.

I caught the bus at Itarsi and hoped to be at Tawanagar, about 22 kilometres away, by about 4 p.m. It being a Saturday, the payment was due. We were travelling along a pot-hole-filled, badly-maintained road which none bothered about as soon it would be submerged. There was still 10 kilometres to go when there was a loud noise.

The driver lethargically got out and, arms akimbo, looked at the vehicle as though he had just accomplished something incredible. The rear axle had snapped, he said, and it would take at least five hours for somebody to go to Itarsi and bring back another bus.

If I was not at the worksite before long, there would be a near-riot, for our workers were mostly refugees from East Pakistan. They were a fiery-tempered lot and had to be pampered. I suddenly remembered a short-cut through the jungle across the little rivulet. Shouldering my bag and not telling anybody, I slipped into the jungle.

As I hastened, I could hear the ominous sound of thunder and see the distant build-up of dark clouds. I soon came to the landmark — a huge banyan tree — beside which flowed the little river. As soon as I went around the tree, I was dis-

David Edwin mayed. In front of me was a small torrent of muddy water. It had rained in the catchment area and I was seeing a flash flood. Even the shallow ford by which we crossed was submerged. I could not see where it began or ended. I was in a tight spot. I leaned against the banyan tree, not knowing what to do, trying to regain my breath.

Suddenly, I caught sight of a movement out of the corner of my eye. I knew enough of jungle craft not to make any sudden movement. I slowly turned and saw, walking along the embankment, a pair of jackals. They kept looking at the opposite bank and soon stopped at a certain spot. The male stepped gingerly into the swirling waters, was nearly swept away but soon found its feet and steadied itself. It looked back at the female with an encouraging gesture and stuck out.

Soon the female followed suit with absolutely confidence. It was then that I saw the swollen dugs of the female. They had to get to the other side to reach their den with the tiny cubs. They shook themselves dry and were soon swallowed up amidst the trees.

They had found the ford which I had failed to locate with all my human intelligence and experience. I literally followed in their footsteps and hastened to the camp at a run. Soon the campsite came in sight. It was almost sundown and everybody was waiting for me. Soon they spotted me; there was a great ovation and people came running to welcome me. Thus a near-catastrophe was averted by two of God’s humble creatures to whom I still have feelings of gratitude.

 Courtesy: DECCAN HERALD
**Vegetarian recipes from our readers**

**Masala Khichdi**

*Usha R. Jhaveri*

**Ingredients**

- 2 cups basmati rice
- 6 tbsp margarine (vanaspati)
- 6 cups water
- 1 cup tuver dal
- 6 small potatoes
- 3 small onions
- 2 small brinjals
- 100 grms green peas
- 6-7 curry leaves
- 3-4 grms mustard hing

**Masala**

- ¼ coconut grated
- 1 bunch coriander
- Small piece of ginger (ground)
- 4-5 green chillies (paste)
- ½ lime
- Little sugar
- Salt to taste

Mix together the above masala

Stir the above mixed masala with the vegetables and keep aside.

**Method**

Heat the margarine in a vessel and put mustard hing, curry leaves and 2 chopped green chillies, put some water.

When it boils put tuver dal, after 3 minutes put rice and again, after 3 minutes put all the vegetables and cook for a few minutes. Serve hot.

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**Brownie Pudding**

*Nita Luthria*

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup maida
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tbs unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ cup milk
- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- Few drops vanilla flavouring
- ¾ cup sugar
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

**Method**

Preheat over to 350°F (180°C/gas 4).

In a large bowl stir together flour, ½ cup sugar, 2 tbsp of cocoa, baking powder and salt. Add milk, oil, and vanilla, stir, till smooth.

Stir in nuts. Turn into an ungreased 8 x 8 x 2 inch baking pan.

Combine the rest of the sugar and the cocoa, gradually stir in 1½ cups of boiling water. Pour liquid mixture evenly over batter in pan.

Bake in oven about 30 minutes or till cake when tested, is done.

Serve warm or chilled in individual dessert dishes.

Makes 8 servings.

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**Sweet Mango Chutney**

*Kisho Ramaiya*

**Ingredients**

- 1½ kgs mangoes
- 1½ kgs sugar
- 100 gms ginger
- 100 gms garlic
- 250 gms raisins (small red ones)
- 25 gms red chillies
- ½ bottle vinegar

Grind in one cup of the vinegar, 50 gms each of the ginger and garlic, and the red chillies. Cut remaining ginger and garlic fine.

Skin the mangoes and cut in thin strips.

Place the mango strips and sugar in a vessel and boil over medium heat till the consistency of jam.

Add the ground garlic, ginger and red chillies; the cut garlic and ginger and the raisins. Cook for 10 minutes.

Stir in the remaining vinegar and salt to taste. Cook further for 5 minutes and remove from the fire. Cool and bottle.