COMPASSIONATE FRIEND
JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY
INDIA

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

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National Bird Exploited!

With an eye on foreign exchange the Government of India has during 1995-96 permitted export of Peacock Tail Feathers and Handicrafts/Articles within a limited ceiling of 20 lakh pieces. A full length peacock feather can easily be sold for $1.00, but in the Indian market it fetches no more than Rs 4.00. This fact provides the incentive for peacocks to be killed for their beautiful feathers.

In addition to the quantities legally exported, unimaginably high quantities are smuggled out. We only of course hear of consignments which get caught, the last one being a box containing 40 lakh rupees worth confiscated during July 1995 by the Nhava Sheva Customs (Bombay).

The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan top the list of exports. This does not mean that peacocks are not killed else where in India.

One of our Life Members, Dr Iqbal Malik has earlier this year seen mutilated remains of peacocks during a visit to Sanjay Van, the reserve forest on the southern edge of the ridge in Delhi. She is sure that the birds were not killed by any animal but were obviously hunted for their meat and feathers. And an animal lover who has been visiting this area for the past decade feels there is a 70% decrease in the number of peacocks. Not surprising as peacock meat is readily available in select eateries of the capital.

Other BWC members have during the last couple of years informed us about peacocks being poached in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Gujarat. Our complaints to the State Forest Departments have resulted in stereotype replies stating that their staff were asked to be more vigilant!

Readers may not have all realised that many Indian handicrafts are of animal origin - often made from wildlife protected under Indian and international laws. Unthinkingly, such items are purchased as gifts by those going abroad. Personal tourist baggage is rarely checked therefore each piece adds to the carnage. Peacock feather handicrafts fall in this category. It is true that peacocks shed their feathers, large quantities of which can be gathered, BUT the quantities exported alone indicate that the feathers legally exported far exceed the number which could be naturally shed and gathered.
Beauty Without Cruelty (India) joined animal protection groups from around the world (collectively representing 5 million people) in a protest led by the PeTA, requesting that the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games cancel the planned live bird release at the opening ceremonies in Atlanta in 1996.

Beauty Without Cruelty

22nd September, 1995.

Mr Billy Payne
President and CEO
Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games

Dear Mr Payne,

We the undersigned, representing 6000+ concerned people, urge the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) to take whatever steps necessary to reject the International Olympic Committee’s directive to release live birds at the opening ceremony of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Although the ACOG has announced that “under no circumstances will (it) undertake any activity that will endanger the birds”, such a release can only be harmful. According to zoologists, veterinarians, researchers and other avian experts, the planned release of 2000 pigeons will result in injuries, distress and, in some cases, death for many of these gentle, intelligent animals.

The experts say:

* birds would be expected to peck each other, even to death, and suffer from the intense August heat while crammed during transport and while awaiting release at the Games;
* birds may become disoriented and lost during the chaos of the opening ceremony, and ultimately die slowly of starvation;
* injured and sick birds will become easy prey for other animals;
* birds may be injured or killed by crashing into buildings;
* birds may perish in the flames of the Olympic torch, as witnessed during the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul; and
* the large-scale release of domestic animals is not only inhumane, but environmentally irresponsible.

We believe that while an expression of goodwill and peace at the opening ceremony is a commendable sentiment, subjecting birds to pain, fear, suffering and ultimately death, is not. We ask that you take immediate action to ensure that an alternative is found to replace this cruel and unnecessary ritual.

Diana Ratnagar
Chairperson

from Beauty Without Cruelty (India), November 1995
Teaching Children Empathy

Dr Michael W Fox

It concerns me that children are still being trained or conditioned to react with their heads and not also with their hearts. From an early age they are taught what’s right and what’s wrong. This moralizing approach to awakening and nurturing concern for others can lead to a judgmental attitude toward both self and others. Moralizing is the basis for self-righteous fundamentalism that puts duty before love, and guilt and shame before compassion and understanding.

It was the great sage Lao Tzu (circa 650 B.C.E.) who said, “when the Tao [the way of living in harmony] was lost, then there was morality, legality, knowledge and great pretense.” To live in harmony with others, including our fellow creatures, there must be fellow-feeling or empathy, without which there can be neither deep respect nor understanding.

A child who, out of sheer indifference or thoughtlessness, steps on an ant, should be encouraged to be more attentive and empathetic toward other creatures. Without such attentiveness and the example of compassionate adults who genuinely care for other creatures, there can be no foundation for a humane and peaceful society. To simply tell the child that it is wrong to harm fellow creatures instills a sense of shame and guilt, which are barriers to the capacity to behave altruistically and to love illimitably.

The child can be helped to identify with fellow creatures and to recognize their will to live, their vulnerability, and their place in the natural world. This sense of identification is the basis for a sense of kinship and respect toward other creatures and may well be integral to our own sense of selfhood. Without such identification there can be no empathy. Empathizing is the bridge for compassionate concern and appropriate action, from which ethical sensibility arises spontaneously. Moralizing, therefore, is a poor substitute for empathizing.

Around three years of age, children begin to intensively explore the world and to ask “Why?” The why questions need to be answered, not dismissed with superficial responses such as “It’s wrong to act or to think in such and such a way. The reflex response “Don’t do that!” or “Don’t be cruel” (which is demeaning and judgmental) does not help the child understand why it is wrong; for example, to deliberately pull the cat’s tail, to thoughtlessly tear a leaf off a bush, or to walk indifferently over ants without caring whether we step on them. Shallow utilitarian responses, like “The cat will scratch you if you hurt it,” or “The plant will look ugly if you pull off its leaves,” are likewise unhelpful. The child, who is beginning to objectify the world (concomitantly experiencing separation and attendant insecurities), is also endeavoring to define herself in relation to the world around her. That world includes other sentient and living beings, not only other children but also cats, ants, plants, and myriad other life forms.

If the child fails to develop an illimitable and unconditional respect for all living things, which is based upon an ever-deepening empathetic perception and attention, his concept of self can never be fully actualized. This is because self-respect (and self-love) and respect (and love) for all sentient beings are interdependent. In demeaning and harming others, we do no less to ourselves. This is the basis for the moral injunction we call the Golden Rule. It is this rule that the Eastern sage links with karma, the law of causality that acknowledges that when

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from Beauty Without Cruelty (India), November 1995
we harm others we ultimately also harm ourselves. Shaming a child into being humane is demeaning and can impair the development of compassion by lowering his self-respect and self-love.

At the root of moral education, rather than the shallow surrogate of moral indoctrination, is ethical sensibility. This arises only when there is an ever-deepening and expanding empathetic sensitivity and identification with other living beings. As people’s egotism and illusory sense of separation give way to empathetic identification, they cease to perceive and treat other beings as separate, objectified, abstract entities. Moral indoctrination has done more to close compassion’s heart than to open the eye of reason, which is blind to the world of feeling when there is no empathetic identification with other living beings.

Ethical, ecological and economic education should begin in early infancy so the child learns about where food comes from, how it was prepared, and so forth. Long gone are the days when children gained such wisdom from their agricultural pastoralist or gatherer-hunter kinfolk.

**Ahimsa, Refraining From Harm**

When we begin to feel for and respect the natural world and the living things therein, we avoid causing harm because we feel harmed ourselves. In the absence of such feeling and ethical awareness, we need laws, and even have to resort to demonstrations and acts of non-violent civil disobedience to awaken public conscience.

Our ultimate well-being in body and spirit is surely dependent on how we relate to the rest of Earth’s creation. If we continue to treat other sentient beings as objects, commodities, and to regard nature’s living fabric as a resource or something we can redesign and improve upon without first fully understanding, then we and the world will never be well. The materialism, fatalism and spiritual malaise in the areas of animal and environmental protection and human health are evidence of a lack of faith. It is a faith that must be restored; otherwise we will never realize the wisdom of Count Leo Tolstoy, who wrote in his book *My Religion* that “ninety percent of the world’s suffering is caused by our inability to accept the unavoidable ten percent.” The ten-percent solution is to accept the inevitable sufferings of life—sickness, hardship, pain, poverty — and let our faith lead us to trust life, respect life, and embrace life with empathy and compassion.

As we try to live more in accordance with the ethic of reverence for all life, we come face to face with many rationalizations and seemingly well-reasoned arguments that are at odds with the Golden Rule. It is difficult to be ethically consistent in a world that appears to be far from perfect. Yet our concern amounts to next to nothing until we recognize that our personal dietary and purchasing habits have a direct effect on both wild and domesticated animals and upon the natural environment. We can’t have it both ways, continuing our wasteful ways and hoping these problems will simply go away. We have responsibilities and choices as consumers and as voting citizens. The initiative will not come from those politicians who serve the industries of overproduction and consumption: we must take the initiative ourselves. More laws, government oversight, and action by public interest groups are a step in the right direction. But we need also to put our own houses in order and our lives and lifestyles on the path of nonviolence.

Courtesy: INROADS #24, Fall 1994
ANIMAL WORDSEARCH

If you find all 38 animals, there is still another challenge! We all know that zoos pose a threat to animals’ freedom – how many times can you find the word ‘zoo’ amongst them here?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baboon</th>
<th>Gorilla</th>
<th>Panda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bison</td>
<td>Hippo</td>
<td>Pangolin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>Honeybadger</td>
<td>Puku</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bushbaby</td>
<td>Hyaena</td>
<td>Rhinoceros</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caracal</td>
<td>Hyrax</td>
<td>Sable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheetah</td>
<td>Impala</td>
<td>Seal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crocodile</td>
<td>Jackal</td>
<td>Snake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Kudu</td>
<td>Sloth bear</td>
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<td>Eland</td>
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<td>Fox</td>
<td>Monkey</td>
<td>Yak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genet</td>
<td>Oryx</td>
<td>Zebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>Otter</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Help the elephant find his way out of the maze. See if you can find all four paths, and then decide which one you think the elephant would choose for himself.
ALL OF ME...

BORN TO BE LOVED!

EAT BEANS
NOT BEINGS

DON'T WEAR FUR!

PEACE, NOT PORK
SHOES NO

Especially for

Beauty Without Cruelty
WHY NOT LOVE A-L-L-L OF ME...

NO IVORY!

MAKE LOVE, NOT SOUP!

PLEASE...
LET US LIVE!

NOT BORN FOR BAGS

You To Colour

Postbox 18, Poona 411 001.
ANIMAL SCRAMBLER

Unscramble the following words, and write them in the spaces next to the scrambled letters. Then write the numbered letters in the spaces with the same number in the puzzle below to come up with the hidden message.

1. A person who doesn’t eat animals
   G E R A V A N I E T
   3 18 5

2. Animals who live in a natural, undomesticated state
   F L I D I L E W
   10 12 1

3. Animal Jails
   O Z O S
   2

4. No longer existing
   I X T N C E T
   7 14 19

5. The outdoors
   R E U N T A
   9 21

6. Refusal to buy a product
   Y O C T B T O
   13 15

7. Primates
   N Y K O M E S
   8 6 16

8. Neuter a female animal
   P Y S A
   17

9. Where animals and birds are degraded
   U I R S E C C S
   11 4

10. No Killing
    M H A A I S
    20 22

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
Let’s really grow up... and BAN it!

Join the growing army of people from all walks of life—many of them internationally well known personalities—who are determined to see an end to performing animals.

Stay away from circuses and other entertainments with performing animals and don’t encourage children to go.

Don’t watch performing animals on TV and let the TV people know why.

Exercise your right as a citizen and ask your Municipal Corporation NOT to issue licences to circuses with performing animals.

Don’t use shops which display posters advertising circuses with performing animals and tell the shopkeepers why.

Write to the national and local papers saying that you don’t agree with making animals perform.

Alongside is a reproduction of a recent advertisement for a circus. Such insertions are usually carried along with supporting articles. Irrespective of what is written the fact remains that CIRCUSES DEGRADE ANIMALS & BIRDS.

(Should you wish to have detailed information on the subject please write to BWC, Post Box 18, Poona 411001.)

We know parrots can talk...
but cycle ???

We travelled the World.
We travelled India.
And now, we’re back.

Grand Opening at Bandra Reclamation on 20/10/95.
Advance Booking daily from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Only for VIP and Special class

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from Beauty Without Cruelty (India), November 1995
DID YOU KNOW

- That biology is known as JEEVAN VIGYAN in the Hindi language?
- That you don’t have to dissect animals to become a doctor/surgeon?
- That the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, gives you a right to choose alternatives like models, charts, films and the like instead of dissecting animals (Section 17 (2) (d))?
- That the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 does not recommend experiments on animals (dissection) for the purpose of gaining manual skills (Section 17 (2)(f))?
- That as a citizen of India it your Fundamental Duty to have compassion to animals (Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution of India)?

- That biology is not synonymous to medicine. You could well take up botany, ecology and other natural sciences - so where is the question of dissection?
- That in a single biology practical class of 30 students dissecting 1 animal each for 6 different experiments and if there is one practise run for each experiment 360 animals would be slaughtered per batch, per year, per school?
- That even prestigious Universities like Oxford and Cambridge do not insist on biology A level to gain admission for biology or medicine courses?
- That you can make a difference if you ask for a right of choice to not dissect and adopt the Students Charter?

BWC has joined PFA (People for Animals) and KARE (Kindness to Animals and Respect for Environment) together with some schools and other institutions as co-petitioners in moving the High Court so that students can have a right to choose whether or not they want to dissect for Biology in Schools.

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From Beauty Without Cruelty (India), November 1995
Children Are Copycats

Dr M M Bhamgara

The above advertisement issued by our Central Government’s Ministry of Labour appeared during October 1995 in The Times of India. The ad speaks of children that are employed in our slaughter-houses. Since decades, children as young as 8 or 10 years, do the bloody business of chopping off limbs from carcasses of goat and cattle. The ad is head-lined: “He sees gore & death every day... can he remain humane for long?”. In smaller print, the ad says: “He witnesses life being easily slaughtered... He lives amidst violence... WHY IS HE GETTING CRUEL LESSONS, SO EARLY IN LIFE? Why is he being trained for a violent future?... WHAT WILL HE BE, WHEN HE GROWS UP?”

These questions are very pertinent. Implied in them is the fear that children exposed to killing innocent animals in childhood, may not have any compunction in plunging a knife in an innocent human being when grown up.

The ad should have come from our Ministry of Education besides the Ministry of Labour. Let us save our children from scenes of violence, as well as acts of violence. Let us teach them to keep away from blood-tainted food. That is the first step.

from Beauty Without Cruelty (India), November 1995
Parrot in Cage Sticker

As part of our awareness campaign to stop birds being caged we have had special stickers designed. Readers are requested to make sure that the sticker included with this magazine is put up appropriately, either in a car or somewhere else behind glass. Those who wish to have the same sticker with the gum on the other side are requested to write to us.

The 1996 BWC Calendar

One of our members has given a generous donation for the production of next year's BWC calendars. This time our calendar will have 6 pages with telling pictures and suitable messages. Each member will be sent one. Last year as many complained that they did not receive them (obviously lost in the post) we are trying to make arrangements for them to be locally delivered wherever possible. Those who do not receive their copy by January 15th should inform us.

Correspondence with BWC

We request members to quote their membership numbers (which appear above their names on the envelopes) whenever they correspond with us, particularly when sending renewal subscriptions and change in their addresses. This applies for the calendar as well.

POSTER

A new poster entitled "Looks DO Kill" measuring 15 x 22 inches can be obtained by members who would care to get them put up in educational and other institutions and offices. We can also provide copies of some of our other posters entitled "Pretty, isn't it?"; "It takes upto 40 dumb animals to make one fur coat But only one to wear it" and the three "Would you murder..." ones.

Edited and published by Ms Diana Ratnagar, Chairperson, Beauty Without Cruelty (India), 4 Prince of Wales' Drive, Wanowrie, Poona 411 040.
Printed by Mr Kant Dabhulkar, at M/s Kant Dabhulkar Printers, 2431 East Street, Poona 411-001.

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from Beauty Without Cruelty (India), November 1995

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This poem is for all the people who cage not only birds, but also animals. We should know that: “In their freedom, lies their beauty. The wilder they are, the more beautiful they are.”

Please don’t cage me!!

Why do you cage me?
Is my only fault my beauty?
Please, please let me always be free,
Like other birds who are like me.
I breathe and live, like you do.
I feel anger and frustration too.
You are mean and selfish to cage me after I am caught.
"In my freedom lies my beauty" -
Won’t you ever be taught?

Please don’t cage me because I cry,
And if you do, I shall surely die.
I want to be free, I want to fly.
I want to explore the vast blue sky.
Where I belong, please let me be.
Please let me be alive and happy.

Don’t ever cage me!

Gia Coelho
Would you murder a man just because you liked his teeth?

Then why murder an animal for its tusks?
Murder is too high a price to pay for an ivory bracelet.
The choice is yours.
Be human. Let animals be.

BeautyWithoutCruelty
Post Box:1618, Poona 411 040