

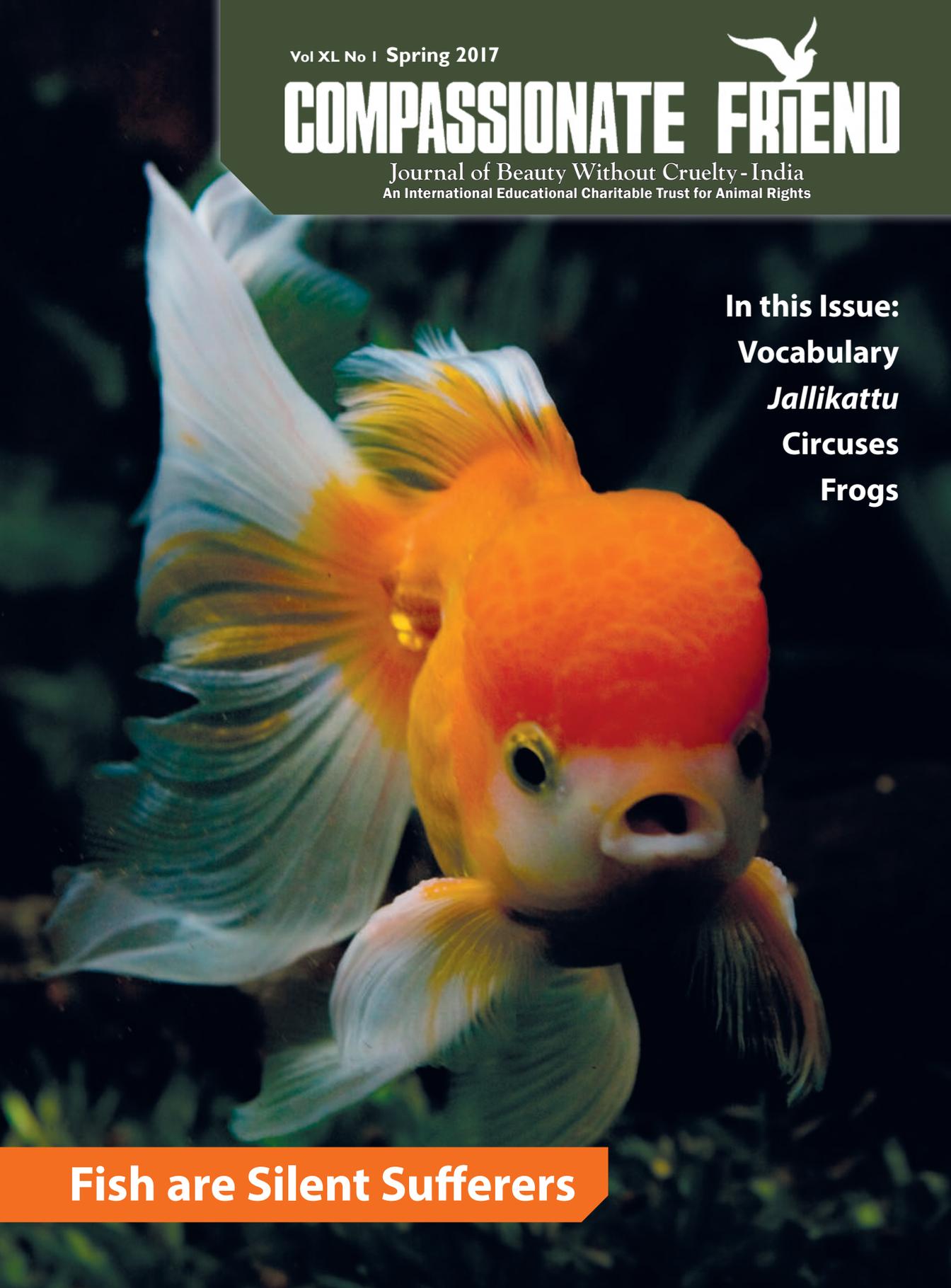
Vol XL No 1 Spring 2017

# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND



Journal of Beauty Without Cruelty - India  
An International Educational Charitable Trust for Animal Rights

**In this Issue:**  
**Vocabulary**  
*Jallikattu*  
**Circuses**  
**Frogs**



**Fish are Silent Sufferers**



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

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## From my Desk...

### Feathers and Fins

Nearly 20 years ago Viniyog Parivar filed a Writ Petition in the Bombay High Court about the illegal trade in birds, animals and reptiles. They highlighted the cruelty inflicted on them and pointed out that of the 200 shops that traded in these creatures only 3 or 4 had a proper licence. The Bombay High Court therefore passed an order on 24 September 1997 appointing a Committee consisting of government officials and representatives of SPCA and Viniyog Parivar to monitor the situation. After a couple of years the Committee became inactive, but the new expanded Committee included several NGOs, Beauty Without Cruelty being one of them.

Two meetings of this revived Bird Committee were held in Mumbai in June and December 2016 and Mr Rajeev Sethi, one of our BWC Trustees attended.

BWC feels that wild or captive born, Indian or foreign, no bird deserves life-imprisonment. By placing a ban on the display and sale of birds, the illegal businesses of trapping, transporting,

trading and caging of wild birds will effectively end because there will be no scope for poachers-traders to sell birds saying they were born in captivity or imported. The Committee should simultaneously request that the Government of India should impose a ban on both import and export of birds without any exceptions allowed.

Meanwhile in December 2016, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reissued the Draft Pet Shop Rules and again invited suggestions which BWC has sent. In 2010 BWC had also sent suggestions, most of which had been incorporated in the current revised draft rules.

However, the sad part is that fish are totally omitted and not covered at all in the Draft Pet Shop Rules 2016. As things stand, all pet shops are buying, breeding and selling fish and their trade is fast increasing. Moreover, the number of fish that suffer and die in pet shops is far greater than their other animals and birds. The removal of fish from these rules will encourage cruel capture, breeding, raising, transporting, trading and keeping of ornamental fish because the Draft Aquarium Fish Breeding Rules have not been notified yet. But in January 2017 the Draft Dog Breeding & Marketing Rules 2016, Draft Regulation of Livestock Markets Rules 2016, and Draft Care & Maintenance of Case Property Animals Rules 2016 were notified. BWC has sent the Ministry suggestions for incorporating in these rules also.

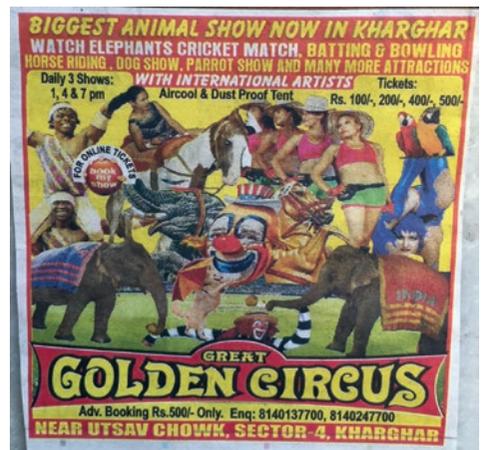
There is no doubt that all captive ornamental fish are subjected to terror, torture and death. Some thing BWC is against. BWC earnestly appeals to children and adults not to patronise exhibitions, stalls, shops that breed or sell fish, or to keep fish as so-called pets. Remember, the ornamental fish trade is all about making money and has scant respect for life.

### Wild Animals in Circuses

In December 2016, Marcia P Sinclair, a Beauty Without Cruelty member drew our attention to an advertisement given by the Great Golden Circus which appeared in the *Mumbai Mirror*. It depicted elephants performing although the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) had cancelled recognition of the circus a fortnight earlier. We immediately took it up with the CZA who promptly initiated action against the

circus. But meanwhile the circus was brazen enough to advertise again.

For what it's worth, BWC hails CZA for cancelling its recognition to 21 circuses for keeping wild animals. The CZA has directed Chief Wildlife Wardens of states to rehabilitate the wild animals such as elephants from the derecognized circuses.



The following circuses have been derecognised:

Ajanta	Asiad
Empire	Famous
Gemini	Great Apollo
Great Bombay	Great Gemini
Great Golden	Great Rayman
Great Royal	Jamuna
Jumbo	Kohinoor
Moonlight	Natraj
Olympic	Rambo
Rajkamal	Rajmahal
Rhino	

Diana Ratnagar  
Chairperson

## A Silent Sufferer

*The exploitation, cruelty and suffering in the ornamental fish trade is largely going unnoticed and no cries are heard says Sonal Murali*

**A**s population increases and living spaces shrink, ornamental fish is a new dastardly hobby that has caught people's fancy.

A living, breathing, moving being is reduced to an item of decoration in restaurants and homes. Treated as merchandise, owners can own colourful and exotic species from rivers and lakes all over the world and transport them to a corner of their apartment to fulfill their fancy of having and watching a poor small living creature moving about aimlessly in the little glass box kept for amusement.

Fish is a silent sufferer and its agony begins with being cruelly captured from its natural habitat and transported in inhumane conditions, kept in small tanks and even in plastic pouches, often with other hostile fish as an item of display and then sold to mostly uninformed owners.

About 90% of the freshwater fish sold in stores are raised on fish farms. Goldfish, for example, are usually bred in



Fish sold in plastic bag. Photo Courtesy: Yves Rubin.

giant tubs on farms that raise as many as 250 million fish a year. Many of them are doomed to live in tiny glass bowls, which provide neither the space nor oxygen that goldfish need.

### **Cruelty and Death in Capturing**

Approximately 95% of the saltwater fish sold in pet shops are captured from the wild, mostly from the Pacific Islands. Fish divers often squirt cyanide or other poisons into the coral reefs where the fish live. Cyanide is used to stun fish so that they will drift out of the reef for easy collection; it also sends many fish into spasms, making them easy to grab by hand or net. Marine experts estimate that 50% of the affected fish die on the reef itself, and 40% of those who survive the initial poisoning die before they reach an aquarium.

### **Sick Fish Discarded**

The ornamental fish trade is in billions and growing rapidly. Fish are often put into tiny plastic bags with minimum water and little air and these bags are then stuffed into cardboard boxes. The water that they are transported in

often contains a blue-coloured tranquilizing agent that is used to keep them calm as they suffer through stressful, bumpy, and often days-long journeys from one end of the country to the other. Millions die in transit from breeder to seller. It is a common practice to claim and receive replacements for the dead ones. For traders, replacement is easier than going through the trouble of trying to cure sick fish.

### Fish Care by Trial and Error

Pet shop owners have very little knowledge of fish care and whatever little they have, they hardly consider it important enough to pass onto the customers. Most of the fish care therefore happens by trial and error method, here the error resulting in death of the fish. Pet shop owners regularly feed antibiotics to fish since their intention is only to keep fish alive till sold. Most of them do not know how to deal with overcrowding, disease and fish fighting. They have very poor knowledge about how many times the fish needs to be fed, what the fish behavior indicates, etc.

Lack of understanding as well as wrong information is floating around regarding fish food, filtration, lighting and general fish care, how often to change water, whether water to be changed completely and why, whether one should start with a big or small tank and why, the compatibility of various species of fish, and so on.

Very often fish suffocate in the tank due to insufficient oxygen. They can also get poisoned if their waste is not

diluted and processed since a fixed amount of water has limited capacity to handle both the requirements.

Inexperienced or poorly trained owners fail to monitor and maintain the water quality as well as routine operations of the aquarium resulting further in ill health and fish death. A fish's natural defense system is weakened and deficiencies are caused by chronic bad water quality due to presence of toxic waste, changes in pH of water and unsuitable temperature. A stressed fish behaves abnormally, loses appetite, weight, gets nervous, looks pale and falls ill attacked by pathogens (viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi).

Placing fish immediately in a new and unprepared aquarium is a common cause of fish death, as well as their too sudden transfer to water that is too different from that of their previous place of abode. Osmotic shock is a trauma caused by too rapid variation of the mineral content in the water. This is a common cause of death in newly purchased fish, 2-6 days after being brutally immersed in aquariums by inexperienced or careless owners.



When moved to an unfamiliar environment, fish experience stress. Fish can also have panic attacks, either because it is scared with the light coming through the thick aquarium glass or because of other bully fish around and finding nowhere to hide or go, it can either die of seizures or jump out of the tank and die on the floor, gasping for air. *Photo Courtesy: Khurshid Bhatena.*

## No Rules in place

## for Breeding and Selling

## Aquarium Fish

In absence of any rules a fish can be kept in solitary confinement. They can be touched, petted, frozen or flushed down a toilet. Fish can be coloured artificially by injecting chemical dyes in their delicate bodies so that they serve a decorative purpose in a public place. No rules govern this trade. They can be caught using drugs. The numbers of what is often considered an innocuous trade is very large.

## Where has the Sense

## of Ethics Vanished?

It is a free for all to experiment on fish. In Japan, a neon-lit phosphorescent fish for aquariums has been created. A person asked in a forum what would happen if he added a little alcohol to the water? Whatever the devious mind can think of can be done to the poor fish that is completely at the mercy of its owner to project his ill-conceived notions onto the hapless creature.

A fish bowl or tank is so similar to a 'panopticon' – a circular prison with cells arranged around a central

well, from which prisoners could at all times be observed. The social theorist Jeremy Bentham who conceived the design described panopticon as 'a new mode of obtaining power of mind over mind, that would result in the inmates controlling their own behaviour constantly.' Imagine a fish being subjected to this for the rest of its life for no wrong done on its part.

## Pet Shop Tyranny

There is a sign at every pet shop that goods (read live fish) once sold will not be taken back.

The turnover due to fish dying would be advantageous to the shop owner.

Since the customer

has already invested in a fish tank and other costly equipment, s/he is more likely to replace the fish in order to salvage the money spent earlier.

Do either the pet shop owners or the customers have a true interest in their pet-fish and are they willing to give time and energy to form a relationship with it? The answer would be 'no'.

## Ensuring Optimal Turnover

One is reminded of the sale strategy of 'planned obsolescence' which is often engineered for electronic products and machines. A similar strategy is used by many pet shop owners to ensure maximum turnover. If the fish lives its full life-span which could be more than 10 years, sales would decrease as each customer will come only once in 10 years. The crucial point being here that fish is a living being and not a piece of electronics.

Only a humane person would feel for any living being that is kept in a confined area for life. Most children by nature are sensitive and feel for animals but they learn to be insensitive by collective responses around them as a norm. Unfortunately, fish are considered good 'starter pets' for children at the cost of fish.



Often the unscrupulous pet shop owner has interest in keeping the fish alive (by feeding antibiotics) only till it is sold. 7 out of 10 fish die within the first week of purchase. Photo Courtesy: Sonal Murali.

## What do We know about Fish?

### Memory and Intelligence

Lot of myths about goldfish having 3 second memory or being stupid has come about as a mere mechanism that absolves us of guilt or remorse of any kind. Like any other animals, fish are equipped with evolutionary tools such as memory which help them survive in their environment. In a study, fish could remember 12 days later where they got food in an aquarium. Other researchers have shown that some fishes could remember their preys and predators for months.

### Fish are Social Beings

Most fish are social animals with instincts to function in groups for mutual support and well-being. They also 'talk' with one another through a range of low-frequency sounds. Keeping them near radio, television or other noisy areas can be very traumatic for them. The pumps and filters necessary for home aquariums too interfere with their communication.

When enquired with a pet shop owner, he said, "Even if fish are kept in pairs in aquariums, they do not breed in a confined place as they are not happy". Some fish turn out to be bullies to others. The bullied fish, having nowhere to escape from the bully, jumps out of the aquarium on the floor with its mouth wide open, gasping for air in the last moments of its life.

### Anxiety and Depression

When moved to an unfamiliar environment and separated from members of its kind, fish experience stress. They become depressed and listless and stop moving or interacting in the aquarium, stop eating and prefer to stay at the bottom.

Fish can get injured in the aquarium because they do not see the glass as a barrier and bang their faces into it. The thick aquarium glass can cause visual tricks of light that scare the fish. Because of it, some fish can have panic attacks, die from seizures or jump out of the tank.

Fish do not like to be in a place that is always exposed to light or always exposed to dark.

### Trauma and Suffering

Fish have complex nervous systems and there is scientific evidence that they undergo suffering and distress. Bio-chemically and structurally, the central nervous system of fish closely resemble that of humans. Chased, confined or otherwise threatened, they react as humans do to stress with increased heart and breathing rates, and adrenal hormone. They exhibit behaviour often associated with pain – the brains of fish fire neurons in the same way human brains do when experiencing pain.

### Commercial Interest

### in the Ornamental

### Fish Industry

The aquarium market has become a very promising sector. The value of the worldwide sale is estimated at US \$900 million wholesale and US \$3 billion in retail trade. Given the strong economic potential for rural employment, aquaculture and aquarium fish trade is increasingly supported by governments. With the call for a 'Blue Revolution', investors in India are encouraged to buy stocks in the ornamental fish sector which generates blood money.

When it comes to money, man hardly uses reason or compassion. It is an established fact that human greed for money and control is endless and the new fad is taking its toll on fish. And that too literally without any noise being made from the victim, the fish. The exploitation, cruelty and suffering in the ornamental fish trade is largely going unnoticed and no cries are heard – as we are dealing with a quiet sufferer, small in size, so that even in death it is easy to dispose of.



Sonal Murali is a  
Life Member of BWC-India

## Frogs and Feni

Frog meat is called “jumping chicken” in Goa says Khurshid Bhatena

**F**rogs, toads, salamanders and caecilians (they look like snakes but their skin is smooth, not scaly) are all amphibians. Whereas reptiles cover snakes, lizards, alligators, crocodiles, tortoises and turtles.

### Export Ban on

### Frogs’ Legs in 1987

Beauty Without Cruelty relentlessly spent over a decade convincing the Government of India to stop exporting frogs’ legs or *des cuisses de grenouilles* in French. The ban came into force in 1987 when BWC publicly appealed to the late Bhajan Lalji, the then Union Minister for Environment & Forests, at a political rally in Mukkam (Rajasthan) and put pressure upon him via the Bishnoi community. (For decades the Bombay Natural History Society and the Blue Cross of Madras had also been campaigning for the ban, but this strategy by BWC eventually worked.) Facts such as the barbaric manner in which the frogs’ hind legs were chopped off and the ecological imbalance created were stressed.

India was internationally respected for imposing this ban. The manner in which the frogs were brutally butchered had been extensively covered and condemned by the foreign



Poached Indian bullfrogs: the trend of hunting them has reached appalling proportions in Goa. Photo courtesy: Sandesh Kadur.

media and this had adverse effects on the country’s image abroad.

The Marine Products Export Development Authority had tried their best to help the trade and went as far as organising the First World Conference on Trade in Frogs’ Legs vis-à-vis Environmental Considerations (Calcutta, April 1986). This was another ploy by the Commerce Ministry to avoid banning the export, but the Ministry of Environment & Forests had recommended a total ban.

Although the Commerce Ministry did not take a firm stand in 1986, they did not issue export licences. In 1984-85 India had exported 2,770 tonnes of frogs’ legs. By not exporting India’s loss was about ₹7 crores in foreign exchange, but in the long run the country saved at least ₹50 crore by reducing its pesticide imports. It had been emphatically proved that in agricultural areas pesticides were needed to be widely used to destroy insects which would normally have been consumed by the frogs. Contrary to the exporters’ plea, the ban did not affect the livelihood of any tribal or other persons because catching of frogs was a side line. Furthermore, the traders also dealt in the processing and export of various marine products.

It was then that the frog (*Rana tigrina*) was included in Schedule II, Part 2 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which gave it a special status of protection. The ecological imbalance created had also been stressed by environmentalists.

In fact, the ban was welcomed on ecological, ethical and economical grounds.

## Poaching, Trapping, Selling

### in Goa, Kerala and Nagaland

In 2014 The Zoological Survey of India in their publication titled “Threatened Amphibians of India” pointed out that more than 20% of frogs and toads (78 of the 340 species) found in India were under threat. They were very sensitive to habitat and climate change and were therefore bio-indicators – their presence/absence indicated the state of the environment.

Incidentally, there is little difference between frogs and toads except that toads have warts on their bodies and mainly live on land, whereas frogs prefer water.

Beauty Without Cruelty has heard of frogs’ legs being served all year round at certain big restaurants of Goa who stockpile them in their freezers by purchasing live frogs or frogs’ legs from village youth for amounts ranging from ₹75 to ₹250 each. Frog meat is called “jumping chicken” in Goa. Venison, porcupine and wild boar are also illegally served with *feni*, the local liquor. In many parts of India, including Mumbai, battered and fried frogs’ legs are considered an exotic food.

Species that are poached are the Indian Bullfrog, Jerdon Bullfrog, Indian Pond Frog, Grass Frog and some times the Common Indian Toad. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, any individual or restaurant detected to be catching, killing, selling, serving or even eating frog meat attracts stringent punishment with a fine of ₹25,000/- and/or imprisonment up to 3 years.

Instead of going all out to implement this law, in 2015 the Goa Forest Department issued an advisory that eating frog meat could lead to illnesses ranging from cancer to kidney failure to paralytic strokes due to their bodies being full of agrochemicals used liberally in fields. This is so because their skin is permeable and they breathe through it. Toxins, chemicals and fertilisers can easily get absorbed into their bodies.

The authorities and NGOs have launched a Save Frogs campaign to highlight the importance of the frog in the ecosystem. They say that with a torch in one hand and a bag in the other, poachers slosh around marshy fields and open areas sodden with rain, hunting for frogs. Believe it or not, the majority of poachers are white-collar workers opting to hunt frogs at night.

Eating frogs’ legs (different species) has resulted in mosquito populations to surge. For example, there was a time when up to 30 species of frogs were seen in the coastal Karwar region, but now it’s rare to see any frogs. A single frog can eat up to 100 mosquitoes a night including those that carry malaria, dengue and chikungunya fevers.

In Kerala, frogs’ legs are also considered a delicacy, mainly fried, or made into a curry, and served by the innumerable *kallu* (toddy) and *arrack* (liquor or wine which is distilled) shops particularly in central parts of the state.

Surprisingly there exists a Kerala Frog Catchers’ Association in the state. Teams of 4 to 5 persons move out in the dark armed with sacks and petromax lamps. The frogs are effectively stunned by the bright light so can be easily picked up and thrown into the sacks and carried away. Their hind legs are then amputated and the severed bodies dumped as waste for scavenger birds. They have even been catching frogs from neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during the monsoon breeding season.

Frogs, eels, snails and crickets are sold alongside shellfish and grubs and served (eels live and slithering) in restaurants at Dimapur in Nagaland and are popular during the state’s annual Hornbill Festival in December.

Sikkim’s Lepchas community strongly believe that eating frogs can cure stomach ailments.

Meanwhile, the least we can do is to appreciate frogs by creating awareness on the World Frog Day which falls on 20 March.



*Khurshid Bhatena is a  
Trustee and Hon Secretary  
of BWC-India*

## Fact, not Fancy Vocabulary

**Animal Rights:** Acknowledges that all living creatures other than humans are sentient beings (one that has the faculty of sensation and perception or the ability to feel physically and emotionally) and upholds their rights. Each and every creature, wild or domesticated, has a right to live without being exploited or killed for any reason whatsoever.

**Animal Welfare:** Covers all animals and birds, domesticated and wild. They are rescued if injured or sick, and given medical aid, food and shelter. Welfare measures include improving conditions under which animals are exploited but not getting the exploitation entirely abolished.

**Mercy Killing:** Euthanasia or putting animals to sleep when very sick or injured. Thus animal welfare often turns into animal farewell.

**Animal Lover:** Doesn't indicate any thing specific. Usually dog and cat "owners" fall in this category because

**Nirmal Nischit** feels those who help animals often use words without realising their true meaning. Knowing exactly what they imply and what their beliefs are will avoid the confusion that often arises.

they feed goats, pigs, chickens and cows to their pets. And, they themselves probably love eating chicken and eggs! Animal lovers could even be those who go for "joy-rides" on camels and elephants, visit zoos, enjoy entertainment such as horse racing and animals performing in circuses.

**Humane Slaughter:** A term used to salve the consciences of butchers and flesh-eaters who claim that killing is humane because the animals are first stunned. It is not painless since the animal is slaughtered nevertheless and the moment of death is that which is painful.

**Wild Life:** Creatures that live in the wild, including oceans. It can cover the eco-systems including plants where the wild life live.

**Protected:** Wild life that is legally safe-guarded. Some people care about and want to help only those wild species that are protected.

**Live Bait:** A living animal, considered prey (food) is used to deliberately lure a carnivorous animal in order to trap or capture it. For example, a dog is used to lure a leopard. It is unethical and illegal to do so.

**Pest:** Unwanted creatures (from insects and rodents, to wild boar and *nilgai* – even monkeys) that are perceived to be detrimental to humans and therefore be eliminated – if not eliminated, controlled, reduced in number, or at the least repelled.

**Vermin:** Wild life species that is declared a nuisance, pest or harmful to humans, crops, farm animals, or is a carrier of diseases, and can therefore be killed outside forest areas when they venture into human settlements.

**Culling:** Killing or hunting with the aim of controlling the wild animal or bird population.

**Conservation:** To take care of wild life and forests as a whole. Keeping balance of nature in mind, culling of animals is acceptable. A person who believes in this principle is a conservationist.

**Ecology and Environment:** Both ecology and environment relate to organisms and their interactions in their natural environment covering biology, geography and earth-science. Eco-friendly and environment-friendly people are those who are concerned about the environment and would like to protect it from being polluted and so on. Quite often biodegradable and eco-friendly products are not animal-friendly because they could contain animal derived substances. An environmentalist would believe in recycling; for example users of slaughterhouse “by-products” present themselves as environmentalists for the waste prevented. Also a person who uses a process that saves energy and lessens carbon emission could claim to be manufacturing a “green” product even if it contains animal ingredients.

**Organic:** Any thing derived from an animal or plant organism is termed organic. It is a process and may even be eco-friendly. For example, organic meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products come from animals being raised on organic feed, given no antibiotics, growth hormones, etc. and are said to receive kindness, culminating in so-called humane slaughter.

**Faux:** A man-made product that resembles or imitates a natural one. For example, faux leather vs. genuine leather and synthetic/art silk vs. pure silk. An imitation item is not always non-animal in origin, like cow hide embossed to look like crocodile leather or artificial pearls coated with fish scales.

**Sustainable Use of Wild Life:** To utilise wild life products to the extent that they are still there to continue using. Proponents of this concept believe people have a right to derive economic and other benefits from wild species and that killing or culling is necessary.

**Endangered:** Particular species of wild life whose numbers have fallen and are very close to becoming extinct. Some people show great concern for these species lest they become extinct.

**Extinct:** If no one sees and reports a particular creature in the wild for 50 years, the specie is declared extinct.

**Captive Animals:** Wild animals kept restricted in zoos or else where. They could even be bred in captivity.

**Zoos:** Animal jails. These institutions promote so-called research, education and conservation of wild creatures.

**Aquariums:** Underwater prisons, similar to zoos.

**Circuses:** Entertainment for which animals are subjected to hunger, fear and torture to perform, or are exhibited.

**Safari:** A natural or man-made wild animal habitat for either observing wild animals, or hunting them, depending on the law.

**Canned Hunting:** Animals kept in confined areas to ensure that the hunter will kill. The animals are cornered and can not run away.

**Taxidermy:** Preparing, stuffing and mounting the heads, skins, etc. of animals for display, e.g. hunting trophies or museum displays.

**Poaching and Smuggling:** Illegally hunting, snaring or trapping wild life in protected areas and clandestinely transporting for sale (usually out of the country) that which is poached: alive or dead.

**Seizure and Confiscation:**

Government taking possession of living creatures or body parts by force, based on right of law.

**Animal Sacrifice:** Beheading an animal or bird such as a goat or chicken in the name of religion. Killing an animal is no sacrifice, but murder.

**Domestic Animals:** Species of animals that have been bred and tamed to live with humans. For example, dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, birds and others.

**Farm Animals:** Livestock, cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, geese, pigs and so on. Bred and raised with the aim to exploit and eventually slaughter them for their meat.

**Harvesting:** Need not be produce of the land, but body-parts of livestock or wild animals specially bred for this purpose.

**Intensive/Factory**

**Farming of Animals:** High concentration of livestock such as cattle, poultry, fish, specially bred to be exploited and killed for commercial gain. For example, battery cages for poultry.

**Sterilization:** Removal of reproductive organs. A female animal is spayed when

her uterus and ovaries are surgically removed. A male animal is neutered or castrated when his testicles are taken out. Colloquially both are referred to as fixing or de-sexing.

**Artificial Insemination:** Male semen is forcefully collected and deliberately introduced into a female vagina or oviduct to make the animal pregnant; for example, a milch animal.

**Biotechnology:** Animals are often crossed with plants for biotechnology research and its commercial implementation.

**GE:** Genetic engineering involves inserting a gene from one species (plant, bacterium, animal) into another.

**GM Animals:** Animals whose genetic make-up has been altered (playing God in labs) in order to develop a new strain that would adapt to human greed that aims to extract the maximum possible from animals.

**GM Vegetables:** Crops that are genetically modified could very well be non-vegetarian. Moreover, genetically modified organism (GMO) crops are engineered to produce harmful pesticides in themselves.

**Vivisection:** Living animals such as rabbits, dogs, cats, monkeys, mice and guinea pigs, are housed in laboratories and experimented upon. It involves inflicting ailments upon the animals and then trying to cure them with newly developed medicines or surgical procedures. Such research and experimentation results in needless suffering and is far from scientific.

**Testing on Animals:** Finished products such as cosmetics and household goods, are tested on animals in labs for toxicity to check how they might affect humans. Chemical ingredients could also be tested separately.

**Xenotransplantation:** Taking a living organ from one species and transplanting it to another, like from pigs to humans or baboons to humans. The donor (animal) is killed, whereas the donee (human) suffers and eventually dies.

**Carnivore:** Meat-eating animal.

**Piscivore:** An animal or bird that eats fish but no other flesh.

**Omnivore:** An animal or bird that consumes both flesh and plant foods.

**Herbivore:** An animal or bird that consumes plants only.

## Jallikattu

We as animal activists failed the bulls by sitting complacent for 3 years and not counteracting on social media the fast-growing youth movement in support of Jallikattu being projected as a part of Tamil culture and identity.



Villagers pinned down and injured by a bull in Madurai. Photo courtesy: Babu/Reuters.

**May 2014:** Supreme Court (SC) judgement bans *Jallikattu*.

**January 2016:** Government of India issues notification permitting bulls to be used for sport.

**December 2016:** SC reserves its judgement on a clutch of petitions received in favour of *Jallikattu*.

**January 2017:** Tamil Nadu arrests 28 people for defying ban on *Jallikattu* after the SC declines to give its verdict before Pongal.

The arrests trigger massive protests and *Jallikattu* is projected as a cultural symbol of the Tamil people. The uprising gets the support of celebrities. It is quite clear that this spontaneous protest without a visible leadership was triggered by *Jallikattu*, but was basically for restoring Tamil pride that had taken a beating over the years and that they were fed up with political agendas and impositions.

In order to control the growing unrest on Marina Beach (Chennai) the TN government with the support of the Centre passes an ordinance legalising *Jallikattu* by treating it as a traditional sport.

Two youths get gored to death by raging bulls (210 were let loose in the arena), 174 men get injured and hospitalised of which one more dies, while another dies of dehydration on the first day itself.

The TN Assembly passes the *Jallikattu* Bill.

The Centre moves the SC to withdraw its January 2016 notification which is the basis of the pending court case.

A day after challenging TN's law as a fraud on the Indian Constitution, the Animal Welfare Board of India also withdraws its case in the SC.

## FYI Lab Produced Leather



**M**uskin created by Italian Grado Zero Space, made from mushrooms is a vegan fungus alternative to leather. The spores that make the fabric are knitted together to form a woven pattern that copy hide. Tanning is without toxic chemicals. Muskin is hygienic, stops breeding bacteria and is ultra absorbent and breathable, making it ideal for shoes and watchstraps. Soft and malleable in texture, it rivals suede, especially since it looks natural and stays that way.

Whereas muskin is acceptable, other leather produced in the laboratory is no different to lab-grown meat (reference article under FYI on page 9 of Monsoon 2014 issue of *Compassionate Friend*). Both begin as flesh taken from a living or slaughtered animal and are NOT non-animal origin alternatives.

Biofabrication is a new process that claims to produce a material that has the same flexibility, smooth texture and elasticity of leather through a tissue engineering technique but it is not “completely animal-free” as announced by the inventors. The lab grows leather in two weeks from skin cells that produce collagen. It is falsely claimed that “no animals are harmed” because via a biopsy on a living animal, skin cells are taken from which leather is grown in the lab. Leather and hide of cows, crocodiles and ostriches have been thus produced.

## Vegan Recipe

### Dals



**D**als are dried pulses, lentils, peas and beans, stripped of their outer hulls and split. But, it is healthier to consume whole lentils/saabut dals.

Black gram/*urad*, green gram/*mung*, and pigeon pea/*arhar/tuvar* are the three commonly consumed *dals*. Chana *dal* is also popular. It is derived from black chickpeas and is powdered and used as gram flour/*besan* in a number of Indian recipes.

*Urad dal* is the highest in protein and contains Vitamin B. *Mung dal* is rich in iron, potassium and calcium. *Tur dal* contains complex dietary fibre. Chana *dal* is high in protein and trace minerals like copper and manganese. Masoor *dal* improves blood circulation.

The following is a delicious and nutritious veg version of a traditional non-veg dish of Hyderabad, adapted and made popular in Malaysia.

## Malaysian Indian *Dalcha* (serves 4)

### Ingredients

- 6 red chillies
- 2 tbsps cashew nuts, chopped
- 2 tbsps almonds, chopped and blanched
- 5 garlic cloves, peeled and chopped
- 3 inch piece ginger, peeled and chopped
- 1 tbsps whole coriander seeds
- 1 tsp whole cumin seeds
- ¼ tsp fennel seeds
- 350 grams *tur dal*
- 150 grams *chana dal*
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- 3 tbsps peanut oil
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 6 green cardamom pods, slightly crushed
- 6 cloves
- 1 tsp pepper powder
- 250 grams onions, thinly sliced
- 50 grams mint
- 200 grams pumpkin/*kaddu*, cut into chunks
- 1 big brinjal, peeled and cut into chunks
- 500 grams potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 200 ml coconut milk
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 2 tbsps thick tamarind paste
- 1-3 green chillies, slit diagonally
- 1-2 tsp salt

### Preparation

Soak nuts in 200 ml water overnight. Blend in liquidiser till smooth. Keep aside.

Similarly blend garlic and ginger with 2 tablespoons of water. Keep aside.

Grind coriander, cumin and fennel finely. Keep aside.

Wash *dals* together and drain. Bring to boil with 7 cups of water skimming off scum.

Add turmeric. Stir. Partially cover, reduce heat and simmer till done. Keep aside.

Heat oil. Add cinnamon, cardamom, cloves and pepper. Sauté. Add onion, sauté till brown. Add mint. Sauté.

Add pumpkin, brinjal and potato and stir for 2 minutes.

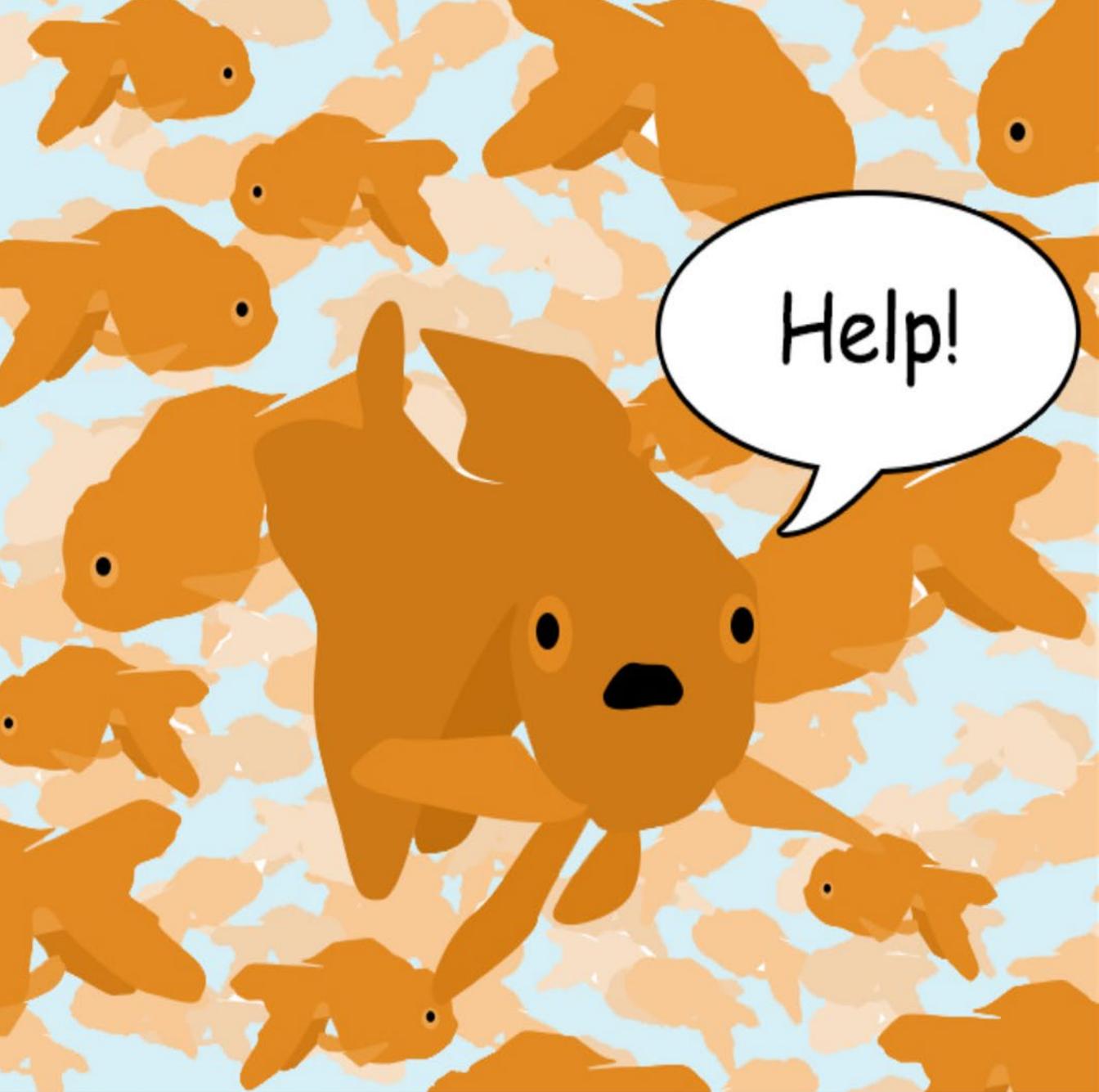
Add garlic and ginger paste and stir for 1 minute.

Add cooked *dal*, coconut milk, 2 cups water, ground spices and salt and simmer with partially covered lid for 30 minutes.

Add nut paste, tomato, tamarind paste and chillies and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes.

The final consistency should be quite thick.

Serve with rice.



**Things will be different  
if we are not indifferent**



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