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COMPASSIONATE FRIEND



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An International Educational Charitable Trust for Animal Rights



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Dairies

Ratites

Paper

Fish

And a bookmark!

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Beauty Without Cruelty

Editorial

Are GM humans a brave new world's goal?

Genetic modification (GM) of plants, most recently brinjals, has been a major issue, and concerns about the safety of genetically modified (GM) crops continue to grow.

There are so many issues that need to be addressed before everyone can accept GM plants as the right road that the question arises: how will technological man apply genetic modification to animals? Scientists see a future for it, but it will bring controversies.

GM animals started when humans began domesticating animals and breeding them selectively. The quest for "better" animal breeds brought scientists and researchers to look for more effective ways to breed animals.

They began experimenting with cloning to get an exact genetic copy of a parent animal to transfer to another, and were successful with Dolly the Sheep in 1996, raising questions like: is it ethical to create animal breeds? What would be the implications of such a practice?

Will GM plants and animals eventually lead to a sorely-needed, new upstart "master race" of GM humans that may dumbfound even the Aryan Nation, Ku Klux Klan, Neo-nazi, and White Supremacy movements? What would

violate the inherent value of an animal, if any? To what extent, if any, may animal welfare be compromised to justify benefits to humans?

Dolly the Sheep's life expectancy was 11 years, but she lived to be six. A post-mortem showed she had a form of lung cancer called *Jaagsiekte*.

In January 2009, Spain's Centre of Food Technology and Research announced the cloning of the Pyrenean Ibex, a wild mountain goat declared extinct in 2000.

Using DNA from skin samples kept in liquid nitrogen, the scientists managed to clone the Ibex from domestic goat egg-cells, but the newborn Ibex died shortly after birth due to physical defects in its lungs.

These early experiments point to the possibility of clones' premature ageing.

Researchers in Canada's Animal Research Institute of Agriculture boast of trying to "...breed animals without legs and chickens without feathers" so that these attributes of the animals' bodies may be eliminated cost-efficiently, being relatively useless from the meat production perspective.

Israel's Hebrew University has bred featherless chickens for warm climates. It claims these chickens grow faster and, as no plucking is needed, money will be saved by processing plants.

Scientists at India's Central Marine Fisheries Research

Institute (CMFRI) reported that the "removal of eyes from a particular species of lobster has shown to improve its weight phenomenally."

In this unimaginably cruel experiment, the eye-stalks are cut off and sealed with a soldering iron. The horror!

The hazards of developing GM animals include new or increased allergic reactions in humans to them, if used as a food source; possible toxic effects, from the production of toxins, or other biologically active proteins, on the environment; adverse effects on other animals due to behavioural changes such as increased aggression; changes in the ability of the animal to transmit zoonoses; and the effect on the ecosystem if the animal escapes, or is released into the wilds.

If routinely used in farm animals, cloning may take factory production concepts too far into animal husbandry.

Attempts at genetic modification for the benefit of animals have not proved successful. Traits like disease resistance tend to be genetically complex, and may be better addressed by other means.

Generally, genetic modification in animals has few effects on welfare which could not be produced by selective breeding, but the latter is also being called into question. One school of medical thought says Indians lack an enzyme needed to digest milk. Ethical, health and welfare questions are also raised by human

consumption of animals' natural milk, yet a case is being made for producing pharmaceuticals in milk.

Genetically modifying a mouse to produce a human cancer in the animal presents a dilemma, since potential human benefits are sought at the cost of serious harm to the animal. There is a need for a culture of restraint on the use of model mice to avoid the reduction of the mice to commodities.

The potential to cause suffering is one of the main issues in the genetic engineering of animals.

Scientists are not united in believing that GM animals will be wholly good or bad. Until they know what direction genetic modification will take, complex questions will remain.

When and if they are resolved, the next logical step for technological man may be to start on GM humans with a confidence bolstered by success with plants and animals.

Consequently legislative safeguards enacted for plants and animals assume a more far-reaching significance.

Many an editor labours under the illusion that he has exercised his remarkable power by writing a thoughtful, balanced article, though no one researches how many readers changed their minds after perusing the piece.

Nothing may change unless there is a wave of supporting popular opinion.

Fate worse than death for cows

By Amruta Ubale

Marshall McLuhan said, “We march backwards into the future, looking back always to a Golden Age,” and so it is with the cow. Once most people, regardless of the religion they professed, accepted the cow as a mother-figure and protected her because they drank her milk.

Today, however, the cow is but another economic resource. She is kept alive as long as she earns her owner profits through milk sales. After that, she is packed off to a slaughterhouse.

BWC investigated about 30 dairies of various sizes. When asked what they did with “unproductive” cows, all the dairy owners replied that they sold them to middlemen, or directly to a butcher.

This was reflected in news reports circulated soon after the Union Budget was announced. The dairy industry requested Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to eliminate the 30 percent subsidy given the meat industry on cow- and buffalo-meat exports which, along with rising fodder prices, was motivating farmers to send their cattle to slaughterhouses.

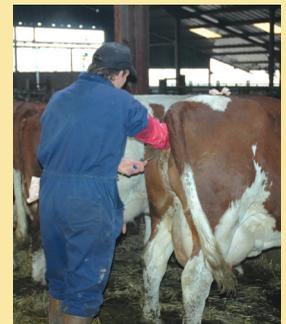
“This trend is especially marked after weaning. As the cost of

maintaining buffaloes and cows has been going up steadily, many prefer to sell them to slaughterhouses,” says Subhash Mandge, Member, National Dairy Development Board.

Physical rape

A dairy cow’s life is hell. Since dairy cows must deliver to produce milk, and their gestation period is nine months, they are forced to have a calf every year. All of them are artificially inseminated. Artificial Insemination (AI) is a technique whereby semen is collected from the male and introduced into the female reproductive tract at the right time, with the aid of instruments. The three most common methods of semen collection are:

- (i) By using an artificial vagina,
- (ii) By using the electro-stimulation technique or
- (iii) By massaging the reproductive organs.



Semen collection through electro-stimulation technique. Artificial insemination. Photos courtesy: TamilNadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

Electro-stimulation is the most painful and cruel method. A metallic electrode is pushed into the bull’s rectum and electric current of about 12 to 15 volts intensity ‘delivered repeatedly till the bull gets stimulated and ejaculates. Most bulls resist

the electrode’s insertion and, during the struggle, get injured and infected internally. All AI methods injure the female genitals and reproductive system, resulting in painful wounds and infections. The semen of a single bull can be used successfully to impregnate hundreds of females. This renders the rest of the bulls unsuitable for mating, so the slaughterhouse gates yawn open for them hungrily. Super-ovulation and Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) are used in addition to artificial insemination.

A cow generally comes into heat three months after delivery, when she is mated not once, but five or six times in seven to eight hours — by different bulls — to raise the probability of pregnancy, since a cow is in heat for only about 24 hours. An ideal cow ovulates approximately 18 hours after the onset of heat. The first four hours are crucial for fertilization. This is a commercial form of bovine rape.

Emotional rape

Cows and buffaloes produce milk for the same reason humans do — to nourish their young — but calves born on dairy farms are taken from their mothers when just a day old.

Keeping the male calves adds to the cost of dairy operation so they are left to die or sold to slaughterhouses. In Defence for Animals found, in 2005, that unwanted male calves were stuffed in gunny bags and thrown out of a moving train at Mahim Creek, Mumbai. These calves had been skinned by leather traders. Female calves, needed for the continuity of the dairy industry, are fed left-overs or milk replacements so that humans may consume the milk created for them instead.

The emotional trauma caused by separating new-born calves from their mothers is an integral part of the dairy industry. Common ingredients in commercial milk replacers include a combination of ingredients such as whey protein concentrate (made from whey, soy, wheat and potato. The latest replacers consist of red blood cells, plasma and fish proteins), animal and vegetable fat, vitamins, minerals and amino-acids.

Here are some recommendations taken from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)'s promotional materials for farmers: "Follow judicious culling and replacement of animals in a herd." "Cull the old animals after six to seven lactations." "Dispose of extra calves not to be reared/maintained for any specific purpose as early as possible, particularly the male calves."

Torture

Most men know, from literature, about the pain women endure in childbirth. John Steinbeck

wrote in "The Grapes of Wrath," for example, ". . . on the night Noah was born, Pa, frightened at the spreading thighs, alone in the house,



New-born calf skinned and dumped near Mahim Creek. *Photo courtesy: In Defence of Animals*

and horrified at the screaming wretch his wife had become, went mad with apprehension." Millions of cows and buffaloes experience the same contractions twice a day. Oxytocin is a drug given to women in labour to increase contractions. This is administered in cows to increase their milk production. As a result, the cows and buffaloes become incapable of bearing calves within a few years, and are sent to slaughterhouses 10 years before their natural life spans are over. Dairy owners' notion that Oxytocin produces extra milk is a mistaken one. It merely makes the milk flow faster by exerting pressure on cows' udders. Oxytocin and poor diet gives rise to conditions called hypocalcaemia (low blood calcium levels) and aceto-naemia (irregular carbohydrate and glucose metabolism). Both are life-threatening if not treated in time. The sanitary and hygienic conditions in dairies are appalling. The filthy floors generate toxic ammonia gas.

This filth is the biggest cause of foot-and-mouth disease and foot rot. The animals also get internal and external parasitic diseases, pneumonia and, most dangerous of all, anthrax. This last is always fatal and, being highly contagious and spreading rapidly through the air, kills many animals in no time.

Is milk good for our health?

The belief that milk is good for health illustrates the conditioning power of society. The milk of every mammal is tailored to meet the requirements of that particular species. It is said that calcium is required for strong bones, but many studies have found no association between high calcium intake and lower fracture risk. In fact, excessive consumption of dairy products interferes with calcium absorption. The excess of milk protein is a major cause of osteoporosis. Dairy products from cows which have been given bovine growth hormones increase the risk of cancer among children. Dairy products not only increase cholesterol and saturated fats, but have also been linked to iron deficiency anemia in infants and children, cramps, diarrhea, prostate and breast cancer.

Humans are one of the few mammals which continue to drink milk after the weaning period. When will we understand that cows' milk is for calves, not for us? The only way to stop this mass cruelty is by eliminating milk, and milk products, from our diets. Many have already done this around the world, and their numbers are increasing.



Don't hide your head in the sand about this issue

By Ashoke Dasgupta

The power of flight keeps many a bird safe from predators but ratites are, unfortunately, flightless. These birds include the ostrich, emu, rhea, cassowary and kiwi.

The African ostrich is the largest ratite; the second-largest is the Australian emu (ee-mew). Both are farmed, or bred to be killed, in India. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has no qualms about encouraging intensive ostrich farms for the production of meat, feathers, oil and other by-products. It has ignored the fact that the chicks and juveniles may spread the diseases to which they are prone – rhinitis, candidiasis, salmonella, aspergillosis, coccidiosis, lice, ascarid, coli and clostridial infections – among other birds, like poultry, living in the area.

Emu farming

Emu farming was started, well over a decade ago, by an individual in Andhra Pradesh. It has spread to Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Maharashtra Emu Farmers' Association (MEFA) claims to have achieved significant growth in emu-breeding in the state since, with 45,000 birds, Maharashtra is second only to Andhra Pradesh.



Fly me to the moon, far from these loons.

Photo courtesy: www.treknature.com

MEFA and others may, however, be projecting a false consciousness. A recent article in the press claimed that Pune District has over 100 commercial emu-rearing farms, which are facing a stalemate due to a lack of processing industries. Beauty Without Cruelty's investigations reveal that the farms merely have a couple of emus each. At least 24 emu farms have closed down in Maharashtra after their birds dropped dead.

Kalpataru Emu Management & Products is the sole supplier of emu products in India. A kilogram of emu meat costs Rs. 350.00 or more, depending on the body part, and whether it is boneless or not. An emu egg, weighing upto 750 grams, is sold for Rs 2000.00 or more. However, emu oil is the primary source of revenue in this business. One dead bird yields 15 kilos of oil, sold for

around Rs. 6,000.00. In fact 96 percent of the emu carcass is sold including feathers, bones, skin, nails, and eggshells. No wonder, then, that new-born chicks cost around Rs. 18,000.00 each.

As the demand for emu meat is low in India, it is being exported, along with its oil, for use in cosmetics (as a moisturiser, in body lotions, shampoos, soaps, eye creams and lip balms) and in

medicines (as a pain-relieving balm and for treating burns). Their hides are also exported for the fashion industry to make jackets, coats, handbags, belts and wallets. Emu leather is used for book-binding, and for lining boots and luggage. Emu eggshells — which are dark green — as well as bones are used, by Aboriginal craftsmen in Australia, for making expensive handicrafts. Carved, painted emu eggs are showpieces and, in some places, the carved ones are used as *Vasthu* products. *Vasthu* is the ancient Indian science of architecture. Emu feathers, cheaper than those of ostriches, are used in the fashion, art and craft industries, to make feather dusters, pads, fans, boas, apparel, accessories, masks, and to finish metals prior to painting. The feathers are also used to stuff pillows and mattresses. General Motors uses the feathers to polish Cadillac wheels. Emu legs' skin is made into inserts

for pockets, watch-straps and belts. Toe-nails are used in jewellery settings, and worn as “lucky” charms and trinkets.

Newcastle Disease, afflicting emus worldwide, can cause 100 percent mortality in affected flocks, and spread to other birds including domestic fowl or poultry. It causes conjunctivitis when transmitted to humans. Like cattle, ratites can get BSE or “mad cow disease.”

Ostrich farming

Ironically, even as countries like the UK began to decry the cruelty of ostrich farming, India started a Forum on Technology for Ostriches to promote ostrich farming so that birds could be reared for three years before being killed for various products: meat called *volaise* (a novelty), fat (oil for cosmetics and pain relief), hides (for fashionable leather accessories such as handbags), claws/nails (for brooches), legs (ashtray stands), necks (narrow containers), eyes (as cornea transplants) and feathers (as non-static dusters in automobile and high-tech industries, quill pens, hats, fringes and trimmings, boas, apparel, accessories, fans, masks, soft toys, feather-pads, pinwheels, and bleached and dyed feathers for show biz).

Since ostriches live to be 80 under natural conditions, 96.25 percent of their lifespans are cut short; put another way, they are allowed to live upto but 3.75 percent of their natural life spans. Farmed ostriches are subjected to stress and injuries,

especially when rounded up for slaughter, as they are large and highly-strung. A hood or old sock is forced over their heads to blindfold them when led off to be killed.



Voila — volaise! Photo courtesy: www.shunya.net

In addition to feathers obtained from killed birds, during the moulting season, ostriches are gathered in pens. Burlap sacks are placed over their heads so they remain calm while loose feathers are plucked out.

Zannone, a division of Darshanlal Rameshchand of Kolkata, deals exclusively in ostrich leather products like purses, bags, billfolds, wallets, attaché cases, gift sets, cosmetic cases, exclusive car seat covers, and leather for upholstery. It was started in the mid-1990s.

According to NABARD, which promotes the breeding and killing of many animal species for pecuniary gain, ostrich farms are found in Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, the USA and France. NABARD’s website states: “Beauty Without Cruelty, international charitable trust for animal rights, Pune, have started campaign (sic) to

oppose this venture. It is argued that India with its heritage of non-violence does not need to go in for business that involves killing of beautiful innocent birds for meat purpose to satisfy whimsical food faddists.”

Although NABARD continues to promote ostrich farming, this comment was posted after 1997, when BWC led a public protest in Bengaluru against setting ostrich farming up in India. This was soon followed

by the then chief minister of Karnataka’s verbal assurance that “this government will not allow any projects that have the potential to harm the environment, or cause disease,” referring to the Congo fever problem in ostrich farming and the possibility of another bird flu epidemic, as in Hong Kong.

Beauty Without Cruelty, along with residents of Shirur Village, Maharashtra, carried out a public awareness campaign in July 1998 against setting up an ostrich farm with Belgian collaboration.

However, unless the Central Government lays down a policy against the import and breeding of animals and birds for killing, such exploitation will crop up every now and then in different states, making Beauty Without Cruelty’s a Herculean task.



*Ashoke Dasgupta is
the editor of
Compassionate Friend.*

Fact, not fancy

Paper

By Nirmal Nishchit

All plants contain fibres which are usually too short or weak to be used for any purpose other than making paper. The basic ingredients of all papers are softwood and hardwood trees, and other plants such as bamboo, straw, sugar cane, flax, hemp, jute fibres, and cotton, linen or silk rags. In India rice, wheat straw, corn straw and *bagasse* (a sugar cane by-product) are commonly used to make paper pulp.

Other raw materials used by the paper industry include bleaches and dyes, fillers such as chalk, clay or titanium oxide, and sizing such as rosin, gum, and starch. Gelatine has turned out to be indispensable in the production of photographic and X-ray films, in coatings, sizing and printing processes, and in manufacturing special varieties of paper.

“Sizing” is done to change surface properties in paper-making. Without this part of the process, paper would be too absorbent for use. There are two major types of sizing used in paper manufacture: engine/rosin and surface/tub. Rosin, also known as colophony/colophonia resina/Greek pitch, is applied to almost all papers, especially machine-made ones. It is a solid form of resin obtained from conifers. Tub is commonly used for hand-made papers, and added to high-grade bond, ledger and writing papers. Made of gelatine glue and/or starch, it is of animal

origin. The sizing waxes are Alkenyl Succinic Anhydride (ASA) which is petroleum-based, and Alkyl Ketene Dimer (AKD), said to be imported from China. The latter could contain an animal derivative like Docosa Pentaenoic Acid (DPA) of seal/marine origin, or Arachidonic Acid (liver, brain, glands and fat of animal origin. If of vegetable origin, the Arachidonic Acid may contain peanut oil and Linoleic Acid).

The nomenclature “recyclable paper” gives the false impression that the paper can be recycled. There are no Indian mills producing 100 percent recycled paper, since at least 10 percent wood pulp is used. However, some mills do manufacture 100 percent recycled *newsprint*. Some forest cover is saved by utilising recycled paper. When such trees are spared from being cut down, wild animals and birds are spared indirectly, because the trees and forests are their habitat.

Various papers

Bagasse/sugar-cane paper is made by re-dissolving bagasse pulp and ECF (elemental chlorine-free) bleach so it turns out to be an opaque, medium weight, hand-made paper with inclusions of bagasse fibres.

Jute paper is also hand-made, from industrial waste, with fibrous strands of jute added.

Banana paper is a natural hand-made paper, made from the waste bark of banana trees but, if it is **two-layer banana paper**, the bottom layer is **mulberry paper**. Paper from mulberry is a by-product of the silk industry.

Beauty Without Cruelty

Ironically termed “**eco-friendly paper**,” the mulberry trees are pruned annually, their bark being converted into paper. Consumers add value to mulberry trees by using this paper, and encourage the silk industry indirectly.

Silk paper is made from silk, wool, cotton, flowers, jute, straw and all materials available for recycling. It is glued together using vegan-origin methyl cellulose or corn starch.

Gunny paper is the finest Indian paper, made from recycled jute sacking.

Punjab watercolour paper is made from 100 percent cotton, but the sizing used in its manufacture could contain animal substances. In fact, all paper for watercolour use is tub-sized with gelatine.

Sunn hemp paper is made from sunn hemp, and sized with wheat starch. The watermark naturally formed due to the hollow grass is called *chagri*. The paper is used for the Koran and for Islamic calligraphy.

Completely **organic and non-toxic papers** are made from bamboo, wheat, maize, rice, and other crops and may have natural inclusions from coconut, water hyacinth, banana, mango, and mulberry. **Elephant dung paper** is also organic.

Khadi paper is made from 100 percent cotton rags; after drying, the sheets are tub-sized with gelatine to produce a hard, water-resistant surface.

Hand-made paper can contain rags/hosiery/textile waste (including silk, wool and leather), animal bones, gelatine, etc. India

is famous for its **petal paper**, in which flower petals like those of rose, marigold, aster, corn flower and chrysanthemum are interspersed on newly formed hand-made paper.

Coated papers

Filter papers for coffee, and **tea bag papers**, are treated with wet-strength resin. If Melamine and Formaldehyde are used, they are of non-animal origin. However, they are sometimes mixed with a small amount of Shellac. But if, for example, Epichlorohydrin is utilised, then it is manufactured from Dichlorohydrin which, in turn, is a combination of Glycerol (possibly of animal origin) and Hydrochloric Acid.

Butter-paper (also called **white translucent sheets**, **vegetable parchment**, **wax/waxed**, **grease-proof**, **moisture-proof** or **tracing paper**) is usually coated or water-proofed with paraffin-wax/beeswax/shellac. Plant-based or **vegetable parchment paper** is made by treating high-density paper with silicone and is better for baking/cooking since it does not burn like standard grease-proof or wax-paper. Used for book or manuscript pages, and for crafts, **parchment** is made from sheep/goat/calfskin and **vellum** is a finer-quality parchment of calfskin.

As much as 15 percent glycerine (of animal/non-animal origin) is added to **cellophane/gelatine paper** to render it pliable. **BOPP (Biaxially Oriented Polypropylene) paper** is a non-animal replacement.

Metallised papers are prepared by coating cellophane with

shellac, then electrically spattering it with aluminium. Some paper varnishes applied to **labels and display cards** are made from shellac. It is also used as a coating on certain wallpapers.

Special papers like art paper have a mixture coated onto the paper which may contain animal substances like gelatine for a smooth, glossy writing surface. Some papers (not for writing on) contain beeswax as coating.

The main ingredient in **carbon paper** is carbon black, produced by the incomplete combustion of heavy petroleum tar products and small quantities of vegetable oil, but it can also contain animal ingredients such as lard oil, Oleic Acid and beeswax.

Re-useable carbon paper can contain lard oil and Oleic Acid, which can be of animal or vegetable origin. **Re-useable pigment pencil carbon paper** has no animal ingredients. **One-time use blue and black carbon papers** (the kind used for some credit card receipts and bank deposit slips) are coated with non-animal origin substances.

Typewriter carbon paper is also reusable, but has higher quality carbon black and beeswax.

Emery board/sand paper used for filing may contain animal glue.

Tarred paper or **waterproof brown paper** contains fatty acid pitch, a residual by-product of the soap industry.

The wood pulp used for **gift-wrapping paper** is bleached, but the material for other papers called **Kraft/packing/brown paper** is made of unbleached pulp. The strength of gift-wrap items (paper, bags, tags, cards)

is important. Special, fancy finishes like foil, iridescent, pearlescent and flocked are used, involving the use of different pigments and processes which could involve animal ingredients.

Corrugated cardboard is made by the Kraft process/pulping or Sulphate process in which wood pulp/chips consisting of almost-pure cellulose fibres are mixed with Sodium Hydroxide and Sodium Sulphide. Corn starch glue is usually used to bond the corrugated medium to the liner sheets.

Tetrapak is a combination of paper board, aluminium and polyethylene.

Toilet paper, paper towels, napkins and facial tissues come under the category of sanitary papers and are generally made from a combination of softwood and hardwood trees. Other materials used in their manufacture include water, chemicals for breaking the wood down into usable fibre, and bleaches such as chlorine, caustic and peroxide.

Currency notes contain gelatine; the security thread is of silk/polymer fibre.

Cotton and linen rags are used in **fine-grade papers**, for **banknotes** and **security certificates**.

Newly-developed **artificial leather photo paper** is made on a paper-cum-fabric base and comes in different textures, surface designs and colours.

All **photographic films** contain gelatine. Albumen, found in egg whites, is used in the emulsion of traditional photographic paper – in other words, for printing a photograph from a negative.

(Contd. from previous page)

And that's not all

Some paper mills utilise horse hair brush calendars (rollers), though these are being replaced by chilled steel rollers.

If paper manufacturers who, by law, are not allowed to discharge untreated or even partially-treated effluents into rivers and streams, do not let it happen, thousands of fish would not die. Effluents can and should be treated, reused or recycled.

Many feel they are doing their bit for the environment by cutting down on the use of paper by either re-using it, or not using it as far as possible. Using digital cameras also does away with photographic film and prints. Soft copies are fast replacing print-outs, though it is impractical for offices to be entirely paperless.

Another good reason not to print is the use of bone black in cartridge printer inks. Bone charcoal (carbonized bone) is the raw material for bone black pigment. It is obtained from fresh, hard animal bones which are boiled to get rid of the flesh and fat stuck to them. They are then calcinated. Calcination means destructive distillation in the absence of oxygen.

Incidentally, bone black is also an ingredient in artists' black colours, coated papers, coloured plastics (yielding a uniform colour), coil coatings, vinyl, wood stains, lacquers, paints, cement and mortar colours.

Jailed in water

By Khurshid Bhatena

Inaugurated January 2010, Kerala Aqua Ventures International Limited (KAVIL), is located in Kadungallur, a semi-urban area about 30 kilometres from Kochi International Airport. BWC's Kochi City Representative P. Krishnan visited it in February.

This Rs. 80 million project, popularly known as Aqua Technology Park, aims to breed ornamental fish for export.

Breeding is yet to commence here, so small fish are flown in from Kolkata. We don't know if they have been bred, or captured from the wilds. We know that they are kept in glass, aquarium-like tanks.

These fish are intended to be distributed for homestead farming among individuals and societies registered with KAVIL – once registration starts. After a period of home farming, or after the fish reach a desired size, KAVIL plans to buy them back at prices fixed in consideration of variables like their quality, age, size and health, for export marketing.

Death in transit

The ornamental fish business has an annual global turnover of \$4.5 billion, and is growing fast, due to demand from Europe, the Gulf and South-east Asian

countries. Indian ornamental fish are exported to the USA, Europe, Russia and Japan. KAVIL has already procured orders from France, Italy, Korea and Hong Kong, and hopes to capture 10 percent of the world market in eight years.

The volume of internal and export trade gives an idea of the billions of small fish involved, but how many millions die while in transit from breeder to seller to buyer is anyone's guess. They are transported in small plastic bags with minimal water and air. It is common practice to claim replacements for fish found dead on arrival — due to lack of speed and safety in transit. In fact, in the fish aquariums and accessories trade, replacement is less troublesome than providing safe, quick transportation or curing sick fish. The "survival of the fittest" rule applies.

Painted fish

There was a time when birds were painted for export as "painted finches." Now fish are dyed, and few realize that the word "painted" is to be taken literally. They are either injected with dye or coloured by dipping them into a mild acid solution to dissolve their natural slime coat. The few that survive this process are painted with semi-permanent fluorescent dyes, after which they are placed into an irritant so that they regenerate their slime coat. The practice of painting fish has nearly eliminated the availability of the unpainted variety.

Trauma and suffering

Feng Shui recommends keeping brightly coloured Arowana Goldfish in multiples of nine, with a Black Moorfish for “prosperity and growth”. How can people expect to experience good luck and wealth by torturing innocent creatures? They are smaller, but feel pain and suffer just like us. Complete aquariums are cheaply available. No wonder we see so many fish tanks on business premises — even those run by strict, religious vegetarians who are probably unaware that bone char is used as a chemical filter. They do not realize — and more importantly, do not want to know about — the trauma the fish undergo. Someone tells them that keeping a fish tank will enhance their wealth, so they go in for it thoughtlessly.



In the tank. Photo courtesy: Khurshid Bhatena

Fortunately, spherical fish bowls are not seen often. They have been banned in Italy because they provide the fish insufficient oxygen, and cause them to go blind. However, fish tanks 24 X 12 X 12 inches in size are a common, if unpleasant, sight; the smallest hold no more than 11 litres of water — spelling captivity, no different from a jail. Not being able to swim far and wide in accordance with their instincts and ability, the fish do not grow to their full potential, remaining stunted.

They are subjected to unnatural food, temperatures, lighting and water, which render them susceptible to contagious diseases.

The fish get confused by the glass walls of the tanks they are imprisoned in and, unable to recognize them as tangible barriers, sustain facial injuries when they collide with the glass. They often die due to neglect, not being fed regularly, too much or too little sunlight, or when the pump circulating fresh water in the tank stops functioning during power cuts. The pump is a stressor in itself.

Fish figurines

It is said that fish figurines work just as well as real fish, for those who have faith and hope in Feng Shui, so it would be simpler and more humane to display nine figurines instead of real fish with real needs.

Self-certification for premium prices

The Marine Products Export Development Authority is formulating guidelines and criteria for so-called green

certification or eco-labeling of ornamental fish. It covers the collection of ornamental fish from the wild, their handling, holding facilities, culture of species and facilities for export, including information about the way fish are handled at various stages along the chain of custody. The objective: consumer acceptability at premium prices.

China leads India in the export of such “products,” which is hardly surprising, since it already leads India in eating dogs, decimating tigers, and other cruelties to various creatures, including humans.

 *Khurshid Bhatena is BWC's honorary secretary.*

Form IV (See Rule 8)

Statement about ownership of the newspaper entitled COMPASSIONATE FRIEND as required to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February

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I, Diana Ratnagar, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd/- Diana Ratnagar
Signature of Publisher

Dated: 1st March, 2010

FAQ

Vishwa (*Sanskrit for “the whole world”*) 2009 was an exhibition/conference to support eco-friendly business solutions, held at the Ravindra Natya Mandir, Mumbai, in 2009. Promoted by the Institute for Studies in Vedic Sciences, Vishwa 2009 was a first- ever endeavour to acknowledge efforts for a greener tomorrow. Dr. Ranjit Konkar (RK) spoke at the conference, about animal rights questions frequently encountered by him. One of them was:

How much change do you expect to bring about by your thoughts and actions?

RK: This taunt is tinged with reality. Individuals don’t boil the ocean, or effect big changes quickly, unless they are benevolent dictators like the Emperor Ashoka, who is said to have abolished animal slaughter in his empire. Non-influential individuals set examples, standards, for those around them. Vinoba Bhave — a very influential figure remembered for his *bhoodan yatra* — was asked why he walked so fast. He replied “If I run, my followers will walk fast, if I walk fast, my followers will walk slowly, if I walk slowly, my followers will stop and, if I stop, my followers will fall asleep.” Example-setters have to go the extra mile so that others follow. By my giving up eating flesh, another may be inspired to reduce his consumption of it too; if I give up eating eggs, someone else might give up eating flesh; by my giving up milk, another

may consider giving up eggs. And so on. Veganism is not the last word: I must try to avoid taking plant life where possible. We must be the change we want to see in the world.

I mentioned that the taunt was valid and practical. What I meant was, experience has shown me that being an individual treading the right path is necessary, but mere attention to higher levels of individual thought and self-purification is insufficient to change the direction of society. Spreading the word pro-actively; taking concrete steps in public; getting society to respond as a unit: these are indispensable for producing results which may elevate humanity to the next level. I also mentioned dictators, but why should it take dictators to change the way we behave as a people? Today, parliamentfuls of elected representatives are quite capable of producing laws to reduce evil, as has happened in many countries, with issues like cosmetics and factory farming. Let us hope that, one day, there will be a “Copenhagen Summit” for such matters.

I want to say how sad I am that a country with our heritage institutionalizes slaughterhouses, kills animals for profit, and supplies meat to the rich and overfed at home and abroad. India has the distinction of being home to the only religions of the world in which animals are given an unequivocal, explicit place in the list of claimants to our mercy. Didn’t our founding prime minister — the same person who said “I abhor slaughterhouses...”

— think there was something inconsistent with the character of the country in setting them up? I know that the father of our nation must have thought so. Or were slaughterhouses one of the “temples of modern India” to Nehru?

Nehru probably could not let that issue supersede his commitment to democracy and letting the will of the people prevail. However, the flaws in democracy become obvious here. Ask a hundred people in the streets if they would support the slaughter of animals. Only a handful will answer, “Yes.” Yet our parliaments and *Vidhan Sabhas* are filled with our representatives voting “Yes” to building slaughterhouses.

It is an admission of ethical hollowness to erect an institution whose workings have to be hidden from the eyes of its own customers, beneficiaries, and financiers. In 2006, the High Court of Maharashtra was considering the legality of slaughterhouses being built in Solapur. Beauty Without Cruelty offered to build, at its own expense, transparent glass slaughterhouse walls to allow passers-by, taxpayers, the media, and legislators an unhindered view of the use citizens’ money was being put to. Needless to say, the offer was rejected without any reason being given. Obviously, if slaughterhouses had glass walls, a revolted world would turn vegetarian.

 Ranjit Konkar is an associate senior faculty member at the National Institute of Design as well as a BWC trustee.

Around the world

Few takers for Australia's bush meat

The population of Australian camels has escalated greatly since 1986, and there are those who believe — or hope — that selling their meat could become a multi-million dollar industry. Imported from the Canary Islands in the 1840s as beasts of burden, camels were gradually released into the wilds as roads were built. Australian camels are the world's largest wild herd now, numbering about a million. The government plans to cull 349,000 of them at a cost of \$17 million. Sellers of the other Australian bush meat — kangaroo — are also hoping to increase domestic demand after Russian importers started cancelling their orders on finding *E. Coli* strands in several shipments. Australia's chief advisor on climate change opines that kangaroos may offer a competitive advantage to the country's livestock industry, as global warming wreaks havoc on cow and sheep populations. A 2008 report found only 14.5 percent of Australians eat kangaroo more than four times a year. Kangaroo meat is mostly used as pet food. Unlike camels, which are killed in abattoirs, kangaroos are mostly killed by small-scale hunters who are harder to regulate, and may not follow sanitary standards. The market price of the meat is too low to support the cost of transporting it across the country, and many camels roam remote locations accessible only by air, rendering their slaughter expensive.

Fur-ious

Everyone knows that fur is the outcome of brutal murder of animals, trapped or farmed, so the slogan “It takes up to 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat... but only one to wear it,” is apt.

Unfortunately, fur is making an international comeback. The public is no less sensitive but fashion designers, looking to propel themselves into financial prominence, have used fur in their fall collections.



Mother mink carrying baby. Photo courtesy: wildlifemysteries.wordpress.com

The global trend to wear fox, coyote, mink and other creatures is the result of a marketing campaign by furriers, trapping the thoughtless young by giving them free samples.

However, fur has lost its class connotations since the great unwashed may be seen wearing it in western mass transit systems.

Meat consumption an environmental villain

Last May, the townsfolk of Ghent celebrated their first *Donderdag Veggiedag*, or Thursday Veggieday, while watching a boy dressed as a banana combat another dressed as a steak. Ghent may be at the forefront of efforts to fight climate change by dietary change, but the meat-in-moderation movement is gathering momentum elsewhere too. A Meatless Mondays organization founded in the USA now has branches in Australia, Canada, Finland, Holland, and Taiwan. São Paulo and Tel Aviv have followed Ghent's lead. Baltimore became the first North American city to mandate Meatless Mondays in its school cafeterias, and a similar proposal has been made for New York City schools. Political activists have rendered the issue “cool” in the west, and its usually idealistic youth are in the vanguard of eating less meat. McMaster University in Canada has a separate dining facility where meat is prohibited. A World Bank study says raising livestock is to blame for half of all emissions, more than cars, so consuming meat has been objectively identified as a global evil. Even one percent of the population of Mongolia, where per capita meat consumption has been about 200 pounds a year, has turned vegetarian as foreign trade and internet access have yielded access to new ideas, including the idea of a healthier diet.

Vegan recipes



Thai Fried Rice

(Serves four)

Ingredients:

- 2 cups rice
- 1 onion
- 1 tomato
- 7 cloves finely chopped garlic
- 1 tablespoon soya sauce
- 2 teaspoons vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon red chilli powder
- 2 tablespoons oil
- salt to taste
- 2 cups carrots and cabbage chopped into large pieces (if preparing rice without curry, include French beans and cauliflower)
- 1 cucumber sliced into 2 inch pieces
- lemon wedges

Preparation:

Cook rice with a little oil in the water and throw away the water so the grains are separate. Heat oil on a high flame, add garlic and stir-fry. Add onions, fry for a minute. Add tomato. Add the mixed vegetables and salt. Keep stirring till the vegetables are done. Add rice, soya sauce, vinegar, sugar and chilli powder. Garnish with cucumber and lemon.

Thai Red Curry

(Serves four)

Ingredients:

- 7 baby corn cut lengthwise
- 2 sliced brinjals
- ½ cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup broccoli or cauliflower florets
- 100 grams sliced French beans
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 1 tablespoon soya sauce
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 5 red Kashmiri chillies soaked in ½ cup water
- 1 chopped onion
- 9 cloves garlic
- 3 leaves basil/*tulsi*
- ½ teaspoon *garam masala*
- salt
- black pepper powder

Preparation:

Grind chillies, onion, garlic, *tulsi* and *garam masala* into a fine paste. Heat oil. Add red paste and stir for 2 minutes. Add chopped vegetables, 1 cup water and let it cook for 7 to 8 minutes while stirring continuously. Add soya sauce, vinegar, salt and sugar. Cook for 5 minutes.

Serve hot with Thai fried rice.



Readers write

Appalled

I was appalled to read about the brutal slaughter of thousands of creatures in Nepal. The picture showing a buffalo trying to run away, while its killer held it by its tail, was deeply disturbing. I cannot understand how any religion, the essence of which is non-violence, can require the killing of innocent animals in this way. I hope a sense of humanity will, eventually, prevail so that this mass slaughter is not repeated at the next *mela* slated for five years hence.

Madhulika Varma

Poultry, pig and tiger farms all spell Renminbi

I was informed that, though only 50 to 60 wild tigers remain in China, about 6,000 have been bred on farms. Tourists watch these tigers stalking and tearing live cows apart to eat them. (See picture on right.) The tigers are later killed too, for their skins, meat, bones and other body parts.

This is shocking and condemnable. For the Chinese, there seems to be no difference between the factory farming of endangered tigers on the one hand, and poultry or pigs on the other. The “humans” will do anything for money, as long as they do not get into trouble. The cruel, and those who enjoy watching cruelty, may be cruel to anybody for material gain. The mythological descriptions of demons fit them well!

Jaiprakash Taparia

BWC News & Views

Beauty Without Cruelty
Investment Guide available
in print and on CD

The latest BWC Investment Guide covers BSE500 (as on March 2010) companies. It is important that its introduction be read carefully to understand our new criteria for rating companies. Should members have queries about companies that have not been included, BWC will be happy to check them out and inform.

Animal World

Pune's Vasudev Balwant School invited our education officer to put up a drama for their annual ceremonies called "Animal World." Twenty-five students were chosen to act, and the theme was animal rights in respect to wild, farm, pet and stray animals. Readers who know of schools anywhere in India who may promote animal rights should let us know either by post, or by e-mailing education@bwcindia.org. We will send the schools an information packet, and follow it up.

Bullock-cart races halted

Humans have always been at risk at bullock-cart races, but information about them getting hurt, or even dying due to injuries sustained, at these events was being suppressed. Representatives of BWC and other organizations consequently kept a close watch, collecting sufficient evidence for the Collector of Pune to order the Superintendent of Police to take action. Police from several rural areas immediately issued notices to different *Yatra* Committees warning that strict action would be taken against them if they organized bullock-cart races. Acting on this order, the Manchar Police arrested nine offenders.

BWC pledge forms

Completed pledge forms are coming in daily. There has been an overwhelming response unlike 25 or so years ago, when we first came out with the form. BWC thanks every one, and is happy to note that most members pledged to give up everything listed. There is no doubt veganism is catching on — and fast.

FYI

Colostrum

While bearing children, female mammals secrete colostrum from their nipples. It is a thin, yellowish, milky fluid, rich in antibodies, consisting largely of serum and white blood cells.

High in energy, protein, vitamins (especially A, D, E and B12), minerals and immunoglobins, it precedes the production of milk. It is sufficient, and meant exclusively, for the just-delivered infant. Immunity is transferred from the mother to the newborn by the suckling process, enabling it to fight off infections over its lifetime.

Called bovine colostrum, beestings or foremilk, this super-nutritious liquid is secreted by a cow or buffalo for the first day or two after she has calved. Though a vital food for newborn calves, it is taken away by humans and usually consumed as a steamed pudding. Commonly known as *khees* in India, colostrum is also called *gau-piyush* and *cheek* in Hindi, *junnu* in Telegu, *seem paal* in Tamil, *geena* in Konkani, *kharwas* in Marathi, *bari* in Gujarati, and *palethi* in Punjabi.

Beauty Without Cruelty classifies colostrum as non-vegetarian. As a product derived from deprivation and cruelty to calves, it should be shunned — whether as *khees* or processed into capsules/powder and marketed as a supplement. Bovine colostrum is meant to build immunity in calves, not humans.



Tourist attraction: live cow meal. Photo courtesy: Solent News & Photo Agency



www.bwcindia.org

हिंसा vs. अहिंसा

Mother's Day

9 May 2010

मातृ दिवस

९ मई २०१०



**Calves are separated from their mothers within 24 hours of birth.
Male calves are starved to death or sold to the butcher
and females fed milk replacers –
because humans steal the milk.**

जन्म के २४ घण्टे के अन्दर बछणों को उनकी माताओं से अलग कर दिया जाता है।
नर बछणों को भूखा मार दिया जाता है या कसाई को बेच दिया जाता है
व मादा बछणों को दुग्ध पर्यायि खिलाये जाते हैं -
क्योंकि मनुष्य दूध चुरा लेते हैं।



**It is the right of every mother to provide care
and nourishment to her young.
Avoid milk consumption.**



अपनी सन्तान का लालन पालन करना व स्वास्थ्य वर्धक
भोजन उपलब्ध कराना हर माता का अधिकार है।
दुग्ध उपयोग न करो।

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

Beauty Without Cruelty

(An international educational charitable trust for Animal Rights)

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