



India for Animals, 2012



Don Bosco Auditorium, Goa

16th – 18th November

Background

The **India for Animals** Conference and Exhibition hosted by FIAPO gave everyone in the animal protection fraternity the best possible chance to see, be seen, network, connect, share, experience and most importantly, stand united as a formidable force to achieve one common objective – setting and institutionalizing ethical standards and practices for animal protection in India.

This collective objective comes after witnessing decades and decades of ill-treatment, indifference and complete apathy towards animals – be it circus animals, farming animals, zoo animals, animals in laboratories and even animals kept as pets in homes.



Almost 250 national and international delegates attended the 3-day conference and exhibition that opened on November 16, 2012 at the Don Bosco auditorium in Goa. Goa Chief Minister, **Shri. Manohar Parrikar** graced the event with his presence at the official inauguration and delivered an inspirational speech in which he mentioned his desire to “make Goa the most animal friendly state within a year”.

Back-to-back informative talks and practical hands-on sessions followed throughout the day.

Day 1



Day 1 agenda sessions included a **Showcase of the state of India's animals** in which *Abodh Aras, Shiranee Periera, Neggehalli Jayasimah, Suparna Ganguly and Norma Alvares* each highlighted a different aspect based on their experience and expertise.

This was followed by a creative team activity which got the entire audience on their feet - literally! Each team was given plenty of design material and 30 minutes to design a currently used 'torture' device that they would work towards making history. The creations were depressing and inspiring. Depressing just to learn of the unimaginable and inspiring because we knew that this was precisely what we were up against.

The afternoon began with the first batch of breakout sessions – (a) **A live Laproscopy** session by the *Karl Storz endoscopy team* (b) **Humane Education** with *Pravallika Nagam, Claire Abrams, Nishant Gupta, Rohit*



Gangwal and Vasanthi Kumar (c) **Working with Law Enforcement Officials** by *Brindha Nandakumar* (d) **Fundraising for animal welfare** by *Bharti Ramachandran* and (e) **Animals in Laboratories** by *Alokparna Sengupta*.

The day ended with an interactive discussion and address by *Vinod Kumar* on the subject of **Understanding the Animal Welfare Board of India**. The networking, however, continued late into the night over dinner and on a dance floor!

Day 2



Despite a late night, everyone was back bright and early on day two of the conference eager to learn and network even more. The day began with another interactive session facilitated by *Arpan Sharma and Abodh Aras* on the topic of **Dog welfare in India: The issues, possible solutions and the way forward**.

Internationally recognized animal welfare leader, *Ian Cawsey*, of the WSPA then shared his thoughts with the audience in his session

Advancing the animal protection movement in India.

Breakout sessions followed – (a) **Animals in zoos** by *Suparna Ganguly* and Chris Dapper (b) **Dealing with the media** by *Lynn D'Souza* (c) **Social media and internet activism** by James North (d) **Animals for slaughter** by *NG Jayasi.mha*

The conference then moved into a very important session which was led by **Wayne Pacelle**, a foremost name in international animal protection, who spoke about **how and what can the Indian animal protection community learn from experience in other countries**.



More breakout sessions followed – (a) **Animal sacrifice - Working with temples and law enforcement** by *Gauri Maulekhi* (b) **Building cross-border coalition against animal sacrifice** by *Manoj Gautam* (c) **How to build a sustainable animal welfare organization** by *Vasudev Murthy* and (d) **Living free: Outreach for ending consumption of animals** by *Dan Philips*.



A surprise crescendo rolled out a very special video address by *Ingrid Newkirk* which kept everybody glued to their seats. *Manta Sidhu*, co-founder Angel Eyes from Delhi and a well-known music artist gave a beautiful performance of moving songs.

Abodh Aras took control of the stage once again to emcee the award ceremony – our way of recognizing and rewarding those who have accomplished wonders through commitment, dedication and untiring effort. Again, an inspiration to one and all present.



Award winners were

Advocacy and Leadership Award - **N.G.Jayasimha**

Cruelty Response Award - **Dawn Williams**

Humane Law Enforcer Award - **E. Damodar and Raman Kumar**

Media Award - **Vijay Singh, Times of India and Sunil Dogra, Navbharat Times**

Outreach for Animals Award
-**WSPA and Vasanthi Kumar**

Volunteer Relations Award - **Nilesh Bhanage**

Outstanding Services to Animals Award - **Avis Lyons**



Day 3



Day three kept up the dazzling momentum with the provocative Dragon's Den competition and an excursion to animal facilities. First, the breakout sessions (a) **Fruits of collaboration - Lessons from the Jaipur Federation** by *JFAPO* (b) **Running effective campaigns** by *NG Jayasimha* (c) **Early release as a means to reduce sheltering difficulties** by *Rahul Sehgal* (d) **Learnings from the International fund of Africa** with *Antenah Roba*.

The next set of breakout sessions included (a) **Rabies: Exploring intersections between animal welfare and public health** by *Dr. Syed Abbas* (b) **Plastic cow campaign** by *Rukmini Sekhar* (c) **Improving your adoption program** by *Achala Paani* (d) **Disaster Management** by *Dr. Ashish Sutar* (e) **Be cruelty free** by *Alokparna Sengupta*

The session that everyone had been waiting for had now arrived – It was time to enter the Dragon's Den. This was a feisty competition between four animal protection enthusiasts to win a cash prize of Rs. 30,000 that will seed-fund their ideas to contribute to the movement. It was tough to choose between the four contestants! Eventually, it was Prayas from





delegates performed well!

Gujarat, who emerged victorious with a detailed outline of a computer programme created to help us locate track by satellite our vehicles, rescue animals, volunteer locations and more.

Erika Abrams, founder trustee, closed the conference – guiding delegates to share their own inspirational blessings to the delegates seated near them, followed by a raucous goodbye to test the audience's ability to mimic animal calls (and the delegates performed well!)

Arpan Sharma then presented the Vote of Thanks – it had been a wonderful three days that was made possible by everyone present. But this did not mean that the conference was over! Audience members (who were not exhausted by now!) were taken to John Hicks' primate sanctuary, where they learnt all about monkey rescue cases, rehabilitation facilities and care, monkey behaviour and most importantly, just how pleasurable monkey business can be!

Media Coverage

Goa to Be the Most Animal Friendly State Within a Year Says Parrikar.

Target Goa.com

It's funny that wildlife that was sorely missed in the State over the last 5 or more years are returning to our hills, fields and waterbodies, which incidentally coincides with the return of the Parrikar government...read more



(http://fiapo.org/view_art.php?viewid=12208)

PRAYAS to Set Up Software for Animal Rescue, Nav Hind Times & Goacom

Nearly 250 animal welfare activists from various states of India, Nepal, UK, USA and Ethiopia participated in the three-day annual conference of animal protection organisations and activists...read more (http://fiapo.org/view_art.php?viewid=12203)

Award for city police official, The Hindu

Deputy Inspector General of Police E. Damodar has been chosen for the 'Humane Law Enforcer Award' by the Federation of Indian Animals Protection Organisation...Read More (http://fiapo.org/view_art.php?viewid=12207)

India For Animals 2012 From Today, The Hindu

The Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) will hold its annual conference, "India for animals 2012", from Friday to Sunday at the Don Bosco auditorium in the city...read More (http://fiapo.org/view_art.php?viewid=12197)

Lessons



So, what went into the design and planning?

FIAPO is glad to report that the following activities saw huge success:

- ✓ FIAPO offered **Fellowships to over 40 candidates** which not only subsidized their registration fee but also covered their accommodation costs completely.
- ✓ **Event managers and volunteers** that made team IFA served with undying energy long

after the very last participant had left the very last session

- ✓ **FIAPO member organizations** who not only attended the conference but also led several of the sessions, lending their subject matter expertise and thereby enriching and enhancing every conversation
- ✓ The **Cruelty Device Museum** unleashed the creative side of the several teams that took part.
- ✓ The **breakout sessions** which focused on specific subjects with specific audience were scheduled to enable deeper conversation and deliberation about issues that needed to be addressed as a group for further action.
- ✓ The **evening social** event created a contagious buzz and excitement which lasted till the very end of the conference! Nothing like bonding over drinks and a good vegan meal at the end of an equally satisfying day.
- ✓ The **visit to the primate sanctuary** was like stepping into a magical world - John Hicks' knowledge of and experience with monkeys is just as fascinating as the monkeys themselves!

Activities that could have been done differently

- ✓ FIAPO started an **online forum** on the website to enable participants find like-minded people to converse with about their issues and challenges prior to the event. This forum was utilized extremely sparingly and not for the intended reasons
- ✓ While we organized an **exhibition for our sponsors**, several of them chose not to participate in it, leaving several stalls unoccupied. Our aim was to



have an exhibition that was lively and interesting for the participants

- ✓ We found that several **participants felt the need to approach FIAPO staff** to find out about the forthcoming sessions. The agenda of the program had been provided in each participant folder, but could have also been put up on display
- ✓ The **audio system** in the auditorium was not a bad one, but was made inadequate by the acoustics of the conference hall
- ✓ **Guests accommodated** at Manvins Hotel found that they were a too far to walk and yet too near to take public transport, leaving them dependent on the limited cabs hired and organized by FIAPO
- ✓ The vegan caterers did a fantastic job of introducing tofu to the participants, however people **unfamiliar with the taste of soya** preferred traditional south Indian cuisine which had to be arranged for at the spur of the moment



Feedback

Each audience member was handed a feedback form to fill at the end of each breakout session as well as on the final day of the conference. About 20% delegates gave feedback for the entire conference. Feedback has been excellent and a summary is available below.

Percentage of people	The Session and topics were relevant to the theme of the conference	The agenda topics were scheduled in a logical manner	The time allotted to session was appropriate	The speakers were well prepared and knowledgeable	The material handed out were useful and informative	I found at least one breakout session relevant and useful to me	Organizers and volunteers were helpful and well informed	Duration of the conference (3 Days) suitable	The Location of IFA, given its national target audience, was appropriate
Agree	92	72	67	83	75	83	92	81	72
Somewhat Agree	6	25	19	14	17	11	3	8	17
Somewhat Disagree	0	0	11	0	0	3	0	6	3
Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0



More feedback

Hello, thanks for connecting. Would like to write to you for our progress in "re-organising" our organization! I related to your session the most in the whole conference - and I mean it. If convenient with you, would like to share our journey of re-organisation with you. - We are on our way to sustainable model now! Anyways,

thanks for the intervention! Warm regards.

Three very intense but enjoyable days if working for a better life for our voiceless friends.

It's been a brilliant place to meet people very informative gives a feeling of 'togetherness'.

Great spirit, motivational, loved meeting everyone, and learned a lot in the sessions.

It has been a really positive experience and it seems to me that everyone is leaving with more enthusiasm.



I am really glad I came. I learned a lot, met interesting people. I have now realized that having close relations with Indian animal activists and protection organizations is the best way to improve our chances of making a difference in Africa.

Excellent energy and fantastic platform for animal lovers to come together

The logo, the presentation was professional. The volunteers were really helpful & organised.

Diverse crowd & various viewpoints.

I think the practical sessions were absolutely fantastic, the model workshop and dragons den specially.

It's a huge boost to our effort for animals

Conclusion



In conclusion, the IfA 2012 was a brilliant success. In addition to all the activities presented above, the event was permeated by the warmth and exhilaration of activists meeting each other and exchanging energy and support. Many new relationships were made. Some had the pleasure of finally seeing "in person" people they had been communicating for on email for months or even years. Others met new people for the first time who are now considered "colleagues." The air was electric

with the buzz of these new connections. In many ways, this is the purpose of conferencing. It's not just the new ideas our IfA brought forward; it was the new partnerships. FIAPO is a partnership-building organisation—this is one of our most fundamental purposes. IfA was an expression of the mission to foster alliances as a movement building "must," and such alliances have faces, and bright eyes, and cheerful suggestions, smiles and, as we saw in abundance on closing, many tears and hugs, with vivid promises to talk and meet soon, and DEFINITELY TO ATTEND IfA 2013!

Sponsors



Shri P S Surana

