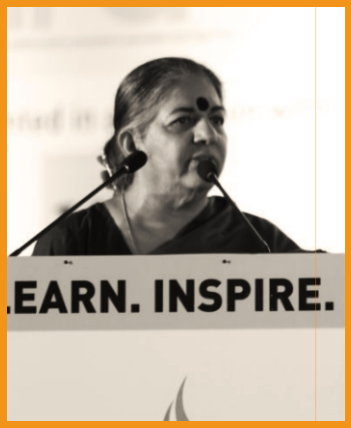
4th India For Animals Conference 2016

21st-23rd October
The Lalit, Mumbai



Conference Report

ANANDRATHI

EIAPO
Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations

Federation of Indian Animal Protection organizations

FIAPO is India's apex animal protection organization. As the collective voice of the animal protection movement in India, FIAPO is the catalyst which protects the interests of animals at local and national levels – through education, research, lobbying, mobilization, training and direct action. Created for the movement, By the movement, FIAPO is India's only national federation with over 70+ members, over 200 + supporter organizations and an individual activist network of 400+ people nationally.

India for Animals is a national conference organized by Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) to bring together all organisations and activists working for animal protection.

The fourth edition of the conference provided a platform for activists and organisations to collectively understand the progress of the animal protection movement in India and to dialogue about the significant issues pertaining to animals in the country. The conference, which was held in Mumbai from October 21st to 23rd 2016, enabled hundreds of grassroots activists, practitioners and philanthropists from across the country and the world to get together under a common banner and connect, build and learn from each other.

Approximately 300 national and international delegates attended the conference that witnessed participation from animal activists and organizations across different spheres – dog protection, wildlife conservation and cattle protection among others.

Our Sponsors

AJMERA Built on Trust	ANANDRATHI	KALPA-TARU	MEHTA Rewarding Relationships
CLARKS GROUP OF HOTELS	ENAM It's possible!	POLYMED Medical Devices	SPMGROUP SINCE 1967
Pedigree	BLUE CROSS OF INDIA MADRAS	RK GROUP	NIRMAL
DogsTrust	B Arunkumar Capital & Credit Services Pvt. Ltd	COMPASSION in world farming ciwf.org	The Marchig Animal Welfare Trust
	RSPCA	FONDATION BRIGITTE BARDOT	

Day 1:
Friday, October 21st, 2016

Day 1 started with a welcome address and general overview of the various programs that were held at the conference. Norma Alvares, FIAPO's Chair led the conversation with a talk around the **Future Roadmap For The Animal Protection Movement In The Country.**

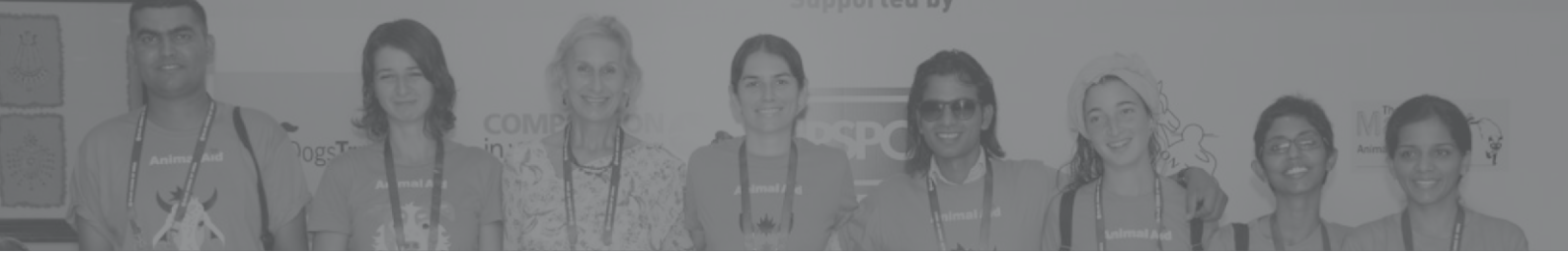
Following Norma's talk, a mystery activity was initiated by a vivacious Erika Abrams, co-founder, Animal Aid Unlimited to help the conference attendees engage with each other and communicate better. The mystery activity was an ice-breaker where attendees were asked to pair up and share their experiences around various situations that were highlighted by Erika. The mystery activity was followed by pre-conference workshops that had three parallel sessions on three different tracks- Issues, strategy and skills.

Animals on the Street
Vinod Kumar, AWBI, S Ahmed, SARAH

India is home to a large number of street animals - these are animals that are either abandoned or 'stray' or owned animals like cattle that are left to fend for themselves. Conditions on the street can be hard for these animals, especially since some can be injured or diseased. The talk explored what are the causes of this complicated problem and discussed humane methods of handling street animals.

Getting the most from your Animal Shelters
Steve Goward, Dogs Trust, Abodh Aras, WSD

Managing an animal shelter can be an immensely rewarding job for an animal lover. However, it's also a challenging job that requires a high level of organizational, leadership and people skills. Having a clear understanding of everything that's involved in managing an animal shelter will help you do it effectively and in a way that the focus continues to remain on the animals and their quality of life.



Volunteer Recruitment and Management
Darshan Desai, Prayas

Is your group in desperate need of extra pairs of hands? Have you ever wondered why new volunteers can seem so enthusiastic, only for you never to see them again? The sessions enables organizations to find out what exactly turns volunteers on – and off, and how to recruit more members and get them coming back again and again.

The sessions were followed by small break which concluded with the beginning of another set of informative sessions.

Companion Animals- Breeding and Pet shops
Shakuntala Majumdar, Thane SPCA

The Pet industry in India is growing exponentially, and harbours significant problems, including unethical breeding practices, keeping animals in unsanitary conditions, disease and injury to animals and not providing adequate veterinary care. The presentation focussed on the conditions of animals in the breeding industry and the pet trade and explored surrounding issues on a global scale.

Legal Enforcement
NG Jayasimha, HSI

Working with law enforcers can be a frustrating task, the path ridden with so many hurdles and obstacles. The helplessness of the voiceless creatures; lack of public awareness on animal abuse and the laws governing animals; opposition from persons whose interests are likely to be affected; insufficient resources and manpower are only some of the factors that come in the way of effective policies for animals. To overcome this, NGOS & Animal activists not only need to equip themselves with the knowledge, expertise and manpower but also co-ordinate and work with various officials.

Communicating your message utilising print media
Vidhi Malla, FIAPO

Being an effective communicator takes real skill. Communication skills have to be developed, honed and added to on an on-going basis. Here we looked at basic communication dynamics, learning skills to improve your communication, using effective communication to improve and promote your animal protection message, creating an effective communication strategy and learning to tap the potential of media to tell your story.

The sessions were followed by the formal inauguration and lamp lighting ceremony of India for Animals 2016 by Dr. Chinny Krishna, Norma Alvares, Mofatraj Munot, Dr. Mehta and Dr. Vandana Shiva.

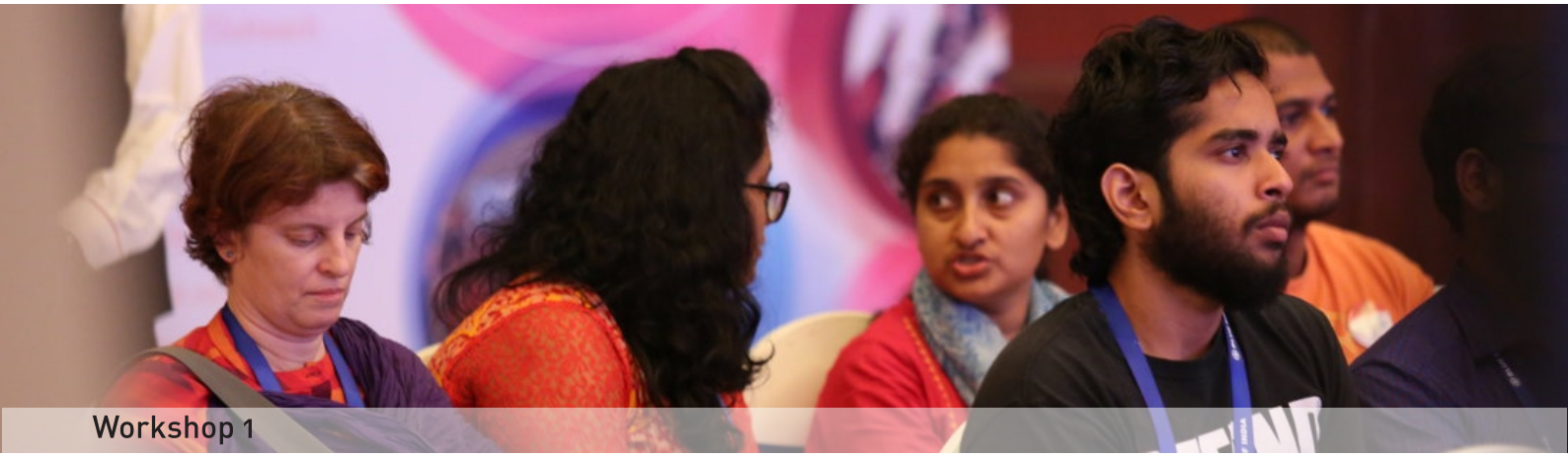
The high point of the day was the keynote on **'What Globalization means for Animals in India'**, by Dr. Vandana Shiva. Dr. Shiva shared the impact of globalization on every facet of life in India, including animals. Her talk focused on different aspects of the animal industry – the booming pet industry, the abysmal intensive farming conditions for dairy cattle, chickens, pigs and other animals.

The day ended with a celebration dinner and after event party, with participants enjoying themselves at the dance floor and also networking late into the night.

Day 2:
Saturday, October 22nd, 2016

Day 2 started with Varda Mehrotra, Director, FIAPO and Gajendra Sharma, Country Director of World Animal Protection – India, presenting a joint session on **Achieving Change for Farm Animals in India**. The talk was aimed at exposing the current status of farmed animals in India and the possible ways of change for key priorities in the sector. Day 2 of the conference focused on critical animal issues, including a panel on **Ending Animals in Entertainment**, which included industry veterans like Arpan Sharma (FIAPO), Suparna Ganguly (WRRC) and Manilal Valliyate (PETA).

Mr. Anand Grover, a practicing lawyer in the Bombay High Court and Director of Lawyers Collective, India shared his expertise in form of a talk that gave an overview of some of the landmark cases that have been fought for animals in India. He talk on The Legal Status of Animals in India, further discussed the current status of animals according to the law and pointed out the gaps that need to be addressed in the future. His talk was inspiring and enabled the conference attendees to learn how to better use their knowledge of Indian laws to fight or animals in the country. Mr. Grovers talk was followed by two consecutive sessions, comprising of different work-shops on issues and issue management, strategy building and skill development.



Workshop 1

Animals used for Food
Paul Littlefair, RSPCA

Globally, industrialized systems now produce over half of all pork and about two-thirds of eggs and poultry meat. Emphasizing productivity can often be at odds with animal welfare, as intensified agricultural production practices of today typically confine animals in cages, crates, and pens without adequate space for animals to experience most natural behaviour. The presentation dealt with animal welfare issues regarding confinement, transport and slaughter of land animals for human consumption.

Reducing Human-Animal conflict through effective Bite management
Inder Sandhu

Over the years we have been unsuccessful in conducting Rabies and Bite management with the current policies of the municipal corporations and LRCA. Fear of rabies and not the dog-bite is the real cause of Human- Animal conflict. The workshop covered accurately documenting every bite and bite statistics; providing good service to bite victims; breaking the myth about Rabies, and how animal rescuers should work with the municipal corporation to fill the gaps rather than blaming an overtaxed system.

Fundraising for Animals
Abodh Aras, WSD

The session focused on discussing fundraising techniques that are essential in building long term successful animal protection initiatives for a variety of organisations and individuals. The session enabled the people present to learn techniques to make fund-raising a fun, important part of their work. It also included mock-sessions for practicing pitch, and tools for identifying the best method suited for any organisation.

The second set of sessions was also conducted on day 2 by some well-known animal activists.

Dairy Animals
Carol McKenna, CIWF, Arvind Sharma, University of Queensland

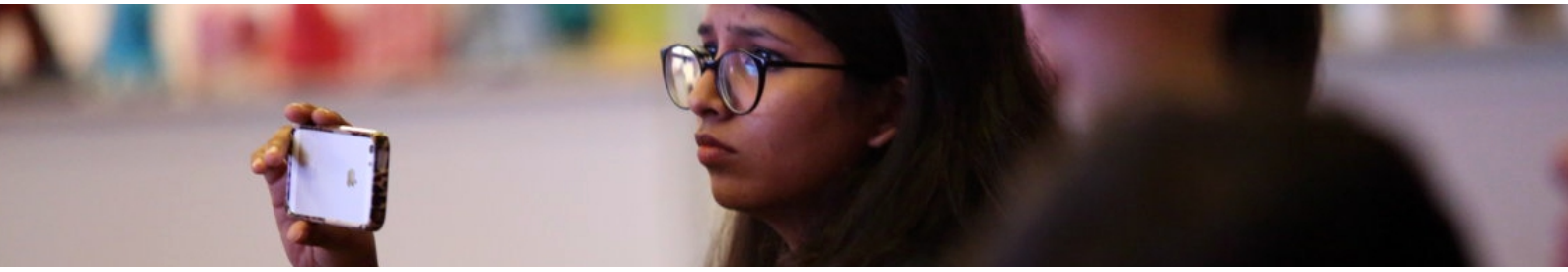
India is on the verge of walking down the path to Farmageddon – a growing population with increasing disposable incomes and unsustainable models of growth particularly with respect to food production, mean that India faces the real and present danger of environmental degradation, animal abuse and unsustainable diversion of land. The presentation focused particularly on the changing conditions of dairy animals and explored the different problems that the dairy industry poses.

Rescue and first-aid without a shelter and working with your local community
Neha Panchamiya, ResQ

Resources for animals are a scarce commodity. If basic first-aid and rescue is provided at the outset of a medical situation, the consequent load on trauma to the animal as well resources drastically reduces ensuring that the animals remain the ultimate beneficiary of the system. The topics addressed in the session were, the benefits of running an on-site rescue and first aid program as well as an overview of the most important components involved in running one successfully. The session will also include guidance on how to empower your local community and build a network to maximise benefit to animals along with a discussion about the most common medical conditions seen in urban animals and establishing a protocol for each type based on resources available to your NGO/Organisation or Group.

Social Media and Internet Activism
K Pradeep, Niyati

Have you ever wondered why some Facebook posts get hundreds of likes and yours only get one or two? Or why you send emails out to your mailing list but get no replies? Social media can be a fantastic way to spread awareness of your cause and attract new volunteers, if you know how to do it right. The workshop enabled its attendees to learn how to grab and hold interest across social media platforms and emails.



After the session, a panel comprising of Dr. Chinny Krishna, Abodh Aras, Shakuntala Majumdar then discussed **The Challenges Facing Dog Welfare in India.** Since the majority of resources of the animal protection movement of India are devoted to dogs, the panel explored a number of themes around dogs like animal birth control, dog culling, rabies and pet ownership.

The panel gave way to the much awaited, **Dragon's Den**. This year's Dragon Den witnessed four contenders fighting for the seed capital of up to Rs.1,00,000 to fund their ideas and add to the animal protection movement in the country. **E- Karma**, a new age application that makes consumers conscious and gives them the option to purchase products based on a cruelty index won the Dragons Den Award at India for Animals 2016. Dragons Den was followed by India for Animals Awards 2016 Ceremony.

This year's award winners were:

- Jeanne Marchig Award: On-site first-aid project in Indore
- Clarks Care for Animals Award: Welfare of Animals Goa
- Celebrating Animal Protection Heroes: Central Zoo Authority (Brig Kishor Gupta)
- Celebrating Animal Protection Heroes: Directorate of Municipal Administration, Government of Andhra Pradesh (K. Kanna Babu)
- Celebrating Animal Protection Heroes: Anand Grover
- Media Award: Jyothi Datta (The Pulse, The Hindu Business Line
- Street Animal Care Award: Suma Nayak (Animal Care Trust)
- Education and Outreach Award: Aneeha Patwardhan (Living Free Pune)

After an exciting award ceremony Kuntal Joshier, the neo-celebrity of the vegan community, who came the first vegan to have conquered the highest peak on Earth- Mount Everest shared his experience with the audience. His presentation The Voice of Animals Resounds at the Top of the World, shared glimpses of his journey as it redefined the history of veganism, inspiring others to follow suit. The day ended with the screening of the documentary, When Elephant Sleeps.

Day 3:
Sunday, October 23rd, 2016

Day 3 of India for Animals 2016 started with the strong and well-moderated debate by Erika Abrams and NG Jayasimha on the **Shift Of Focus Of Movement In India From Reactive Rescue To Proactive Activism**. The debate aimed at presenting comments related to both sides of the discussion and encourage participants to set the course of the movement. The debate was followed by three back-to-back sessions that discussed people's relationship with animals and importance of developing a strong people-powered animal protection movement.

Building a People-Powered Animal Protection Movement
Varda Mehrotra

Change for animals can be daunting, especially if you are all alone. FIAPO has been nurturing local movements, and supporting activists to develop into leaders. The session shared insights on how to turn the energy of your compassion, to a thriving people-powered movement.

Living Your Highest Values for Animals
Nandita Shah

Most people interact with animals 3 times a day - when they sit down to eat them. With the greatest number of animals exploited for food, changing people's diets is an extremely effective strategy to impact huge numbers of animals.

Two is better than one: Why we need to federate
Norma Alvares

Local federations are living examples of why two heads are better than one. Multiply that by scads of imaginative new ideas about improvements, changes of strategy, issues previously overlooked, ways to involve new communities - and here's a whopping good example of what collaboration is supposed to be about.

Following Ms. Norma Alvares' talk, the conference broke for a small break which ended in a new series of informative sessions. The sessions focused on animals used in circuses and for experiments, dog population management and adoption and issues around building a successful organisation.

Workshop 1

Entertainment, wild animals, Animals in Captivity
Prashanth V, FIAPO, Manilal Valliyate, PETA

Despite being in the 21st century, animals continue to be used for entertainment. Beaten by their trainers, locked in cramped cages and chained for long periods of time, captive animals lead a life of misery. The presentation shared some of the major areas where animals are still used for entertainment and held captive in India.

Improving your Adoption Programme
Giles Webber, Dogs Trust, Taronish Bulsara, World for All

The session enabled individuals and organizations to Interact with organisations that have had significant success with adopting street dogs, share their experiences and develop common methods that improve adoption rates – a key area that impacts the welfare of dogs.

Managing an Organisation
Sanjay Patra, Financial Management Service Foundation

Many APOs either shut down within a short period from the time they are formed or simply plod along. From newbies to experienced hands, the workshop aimed to take all attendees through the range of issues geared to put " our house in order" such that the benefit to our constituents-the animals, is maximized. The sessions also will also covered all legal compliances that apply to Indian NGOs.

The last series of workshops at India for Animals 2016 comprised of the following.
Workshop 2

Animals used in Experimentation
Shiranee Pereira, PFA Chennai

Annually, approximately 100 million animals are used and killed in laboratories – be it in research, safety testing and education. The challenge for animals in laboratories are large yet there is a lot to be hopeful for. The presentation looked at the various aspects of animals in laboratories, the challenges faced and the possible way forward in trying to reduce and replace them completely.

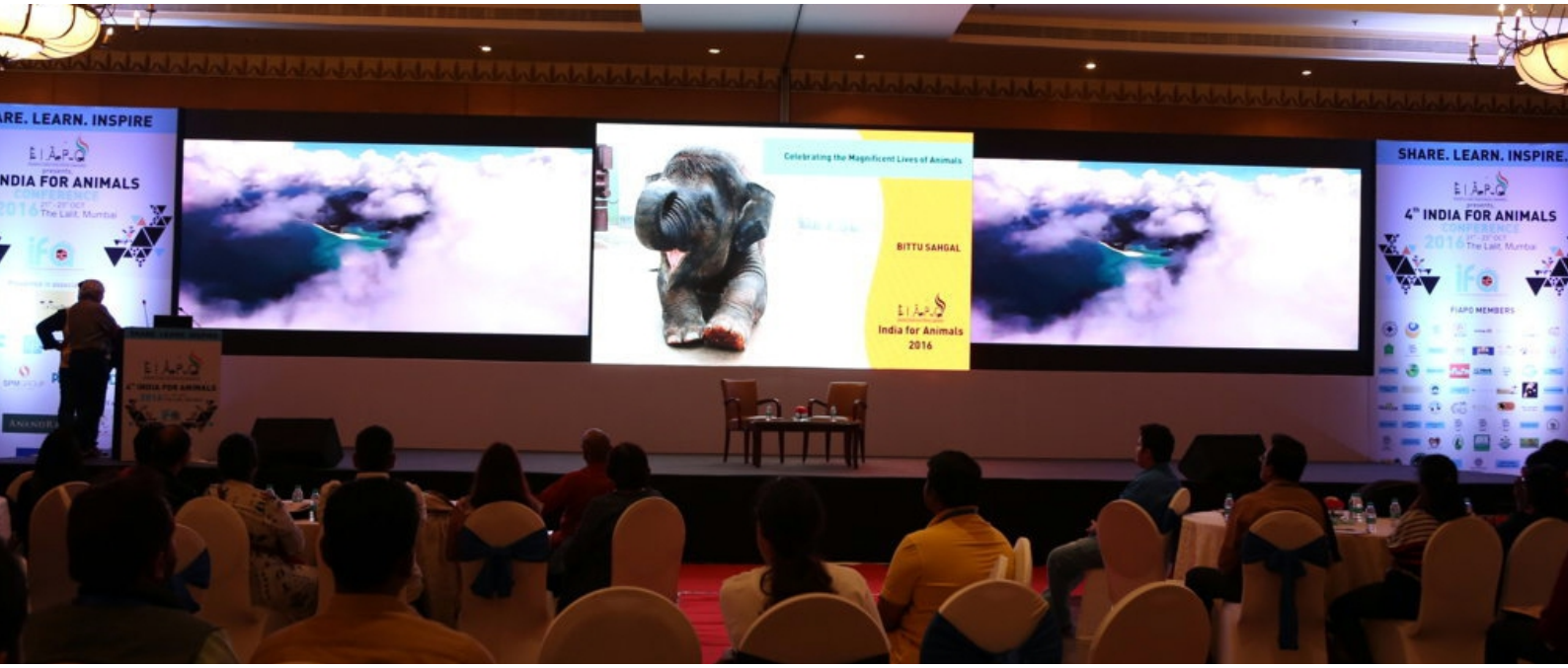
Managing an effective ABC programme and engaging with the state
Illona Otter, WVS, Ashutosh Joshi, Uttarakhand Animal Welfare Board

The session aimed at teaching the attendees how to manage an effective ABC programme to achieve the objective of reducing dog population and importance of field level management and community involvement but also the more technical aspects of good quality surgery, humane animal handling,staff management in general.

Running educational campaigns
Shweta Sood, FIAPO, Dharmita Mandrekar, WSD

The session will focussed on discussing strategies and methodologies related to developing outreach and education programmes and disseminating information to a mass audience

The show stopper on day 3 was magnificent talk by Bittu Sahgal **Celebrating the Magnificent Lives of Animals**. Mr. Sahgal captivated his audience with his powerful oration and enticing pictures of animals in their magical world. The beautiful photo-journey to celebrate the wonderful animal-kind - that each of us so passionately and zealously work to protect was followed by an inspiring closing address by Norma Alavres.



Appendix

Key comments received from participants about the conference

"Gained a lot of information on the current situation of animals and on ways to improve it further."

"The conference was more that what I had hoped for. I learned a lot from it and was fascinated by the speakers and the various organizations that were present."

"It well organized. It was a great coalition of like-minded organizations and individuals. Also, vegan food being provided was a great idea."

"It was an amazing conference."

"It was a new experience for me and there were completely new doors and windows that were opened- information, processes, skills, slides, workshops – the range of and choices provided by the conference were extremely compelling."

"The workshops topics were very apt but were very brief. While the information shared was good, 1st day was over very quickly."

"Overall the conference was an eye-opener, Enjoyed and empowered mysef beyond limit. Thank you FIAPO team for changing me."

Key improvement areas

Time management needs to greater to ensure enough time is allocated for lunch and networking between sessions.

There was a high demand for gaps between workshops and demand for not holding multiple workshops as people wanted to attend two workshops at the same time but were unable to do so.

More sessions need to be included on varied topics – Aquatic animals, birds, reptiles.

While a number of choices were provided for low cost accommodation, there was still a huge demand for the same. A number of people faced challenges because some of the low cost accommodations were at a distance from the venue. While the option did help a number of individuals and organizations, there is a need for providing more such options that are in close proximity of the main event venue.

Key Media Stories

Publication: Daily News Analysis
Headline: Mumbai hosts biggest event for animal welfare
Date: October 22, 2016
Link: http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-400-activists-come-under-one-umbrella-in-mumbai-to-celebrate-animal-rights-2266244

Mumbai hosts biggest event for animal welfare

The workshops touched issues like breeding, first-aid, stray animals and volunteering

Forum Gandhii
forum.gandhi@dnaindia.net

For the first time in Mumbai, over 400 animal activists participated in the India for Animals Conference 2016. The first day of the event was held at The Lalit, Andheri on Friday. The event had several speakers who held workshops, discussions by renowned panelist to share and collaborate on strategies to protect animals and their rights. The event is three days long and is ending on Sunday.

While on one hand, atrocities over animals in India is growing on a large scale, so is the animal protection movement in India growing consistently.

The workshop were divided into three broad categories, mainly skill development for organizations and activists, tracking the issues and strategies to finding solutions around issues. The workshops touched issues like breeding, first-aid, stray animals, volunteering etc.

A stall exhibiting vegan shoes at the event. —AADESH CHOUDHARI/DNA

Talking about the future road map of dealing with animal protection issues, Norma Almares, FIAPO chairman, said, "Two things that will be helping us to deal with the current situation of the animal rights protection is to make strickter laws and education. The issue with the laws in this country is that they are often lesser used and here, with this conference, we are trying to bridge the gap between organizations and the judiciary. We are going to help these organizations make a path which leads to stricter laws for animal rights. Besides, education for sensitivity towards animals need to start at a very early age, thus, education is important."

Anand Shiva, animal activist said," It is a brilliant opportunity for all animal activists to come under one roof, connect with each other, share views, and discuss issues without having an ailing animal in hand. Ironically, we seldom get an opportunity to do so."

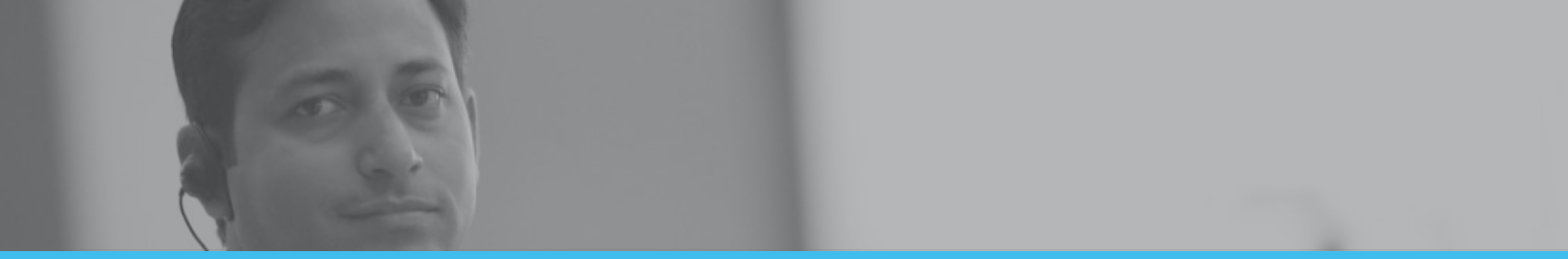
Sonia Alicea from Indian Canine Uplifment centre, Delhi said, "it was a good opportunity for us to mingle with NGOs and get to know like-minded people and share views which is important for an organization like ours since we're a pet boarding centre."

Varda Mehrotra, Director, FIAPO says, "In Mumbai, animal activists have a huge network. The whole pupose of IFA is to bring all the speakers and activists under one umbrella. The main motive is to give exposure to the activists to deal with issues on a day to day basis. There are 25 million dogs but 3 million cattle we need to cater to all issues at large."

Commenting on the policy issues and the way to deal with it, Mehrotra said, "Policy change is a long shot and one cannot deal with it on his or her own way. Larger issues, require more numbers, activists and organization all these need to come together, and then, policy makers will have to listen to large number."

The event has several brands and NGOs making merchandises. One such brand, vegshoes.in makes shoes without harming animals. The shoes are made from a blend of polyester and polyurethane which is derived from plastic bottles.

For those willing to attend the next two days of the event, can walk-in at The Lalit in Andheri and attend the workshop. The workshop will touch upon issues like fundraising, legal status and enforcement of animals in India among the many other.



Publication: The Times of India
Headline: Stop Virus of Intolerance & hatred
Date: October 22, 2016
Link: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Stop-virus-of-intolerance-and-hatred-towards-animals-urge-activists-at-meet/articleshow/54984336.cms

Stop virus of intolerance and hatred towards animals, urge activists at meet

Vijay Singh, TNN | Oct 21, 2016, 10.18PM IST

MUMBAI: At the national conference on animal rights inaugurated in Mumbai by Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) on Friday, several mainstream animal rights activists focussed on the pressing issue of growing intolerance and hatred towards the mute species, and also the business like conversion of animals to mere commodities.

Renowned activist, writer and researcher Vandana Shiva, spoke at the conference titled India For Animals: ``Scientific surveys have proven how meat production is creating food shortages as well as water shortage. Even in the dairies, there is preferential sex selection to only have females (cows). This is violence to animals which will eventually affect humans."

In her address, Shiva also pointed how the `mad cow' disease was in the news internationally a couple of years ago, as the meat farming had turned so gross that cattle were made to eat their own kind to further increase profits, without looking at compassion of common sense.

On the illegal killing of street dogs in states like Kerala, Maharashtra and others, FIAPO activist Norma Alvares told TOI: ``The defiant, illegal culling of dogs in places like Kerala is being engineered by a few people, while the majority remain silent spectators. Legal route, stiff penalties and ultimately government cooperation is the only way we can stop such cruel madness."

FIAPO's Director Arpan Sharma added: ``Sterilizations through animal birth control (ABC) programmes is the only way resolve this issue. It is a transitory phase, and hopefully, all will realize that compassion towards animals is what makes us humans; and not hatred or intolerance."

Several international animal rights groups like the UK based Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), CIWF and Dogs Trust, also attended this three day event.

Mumbai based Abodh Aras of Welfare of Stray Dogs (WSD) commented: ``While in urban areas animal feeders and those sheltering dogs are also facing angry opposition from educated classes, I feel that determined mass awareness on this issue will make people realize that it is eventually illegal to hurt animals. Sterilization is the only humane way."

Member of animal welfare board of India (AWBI) Vinod Kumaar spoke on how India is home to maximum number of street animals, including cattle, and that efforts are on to ensure less human-animal conflicts.

Shakuntala Majumdar of Thane SPCA said: ``I feel that an ID card of AWBI issued to animal feeders in cities can offer some legal protection to the animal lovers and activists. Now there is also more awareness about animal rights."

Publication: Maharashtra Times
Headline: Owners are responsible for Dog issues
Date: October 22, 2016
Link: NA. Print edition

कुत्र्यांच्या समस्येसाठी मालकच जबाबदार

म. टा. खास प्रतिनिधी, मुंबई

भटक्या प्राण्यांची समस्या हा गंभीर विषय झाला आहे, त्याच्यावर ठोस उत्तर काढले जात नाही. महानगरांमध्ये भटक्या कुत्र्यांची समस्येसाठी मालकांचे बेजबाबदार वर्तन कारणीभूत असल्याचा निष्कर्ष फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन ॲनिमल प्रोटेक्शन ऑर्गनायझेशनने आयोजित केलेल्या चौथ्या भारतीय प्राणी परिषदेमध्ये काढण्यात आला.

प्राणी पाळणे ही जबाबदारी आहे. प्राण्यांची निगा कशी राखायची, त्यांचा वैद्यकीय खर्च किती, याची सारासार माहिती मालक घेत नाहीत. पुढे हौस भागली की या प्राण्यांना, विशेषत: कुत्र्यांना रस्त्यावर आजारी, विकलांग अवस्थेत सोडून दिले जाते. त्यामुळे त्यांचा उपद्रव सार्वजनिक ठिकाणी वाढतो. या कुत्र्यांच्या अनियंत्रित संख्येवर नियंत्रण आणण्यासाठी वैद्यकीय मदत घेतली, जागृती निर्माण केली तर भटक्या कुत्र्यांची समस्या सुटू शकेल, असा विश्वास या परिषदेमध्ये सहभागी झालेल्या प्राणीमित्र संस्था संघटनांनी व्यक्त केला.

सराह या संस्थेचे समन्वयक विनोद कुमार यांनी भारतातील भटक्या प्राण्यांच्या समस्यांचा वेध घेणाऱ्या चर्चासत्रांमध्ये गायी, गुरांच्या संदर्भातही महत्त्वाचे निरीक्षण नोंदवले. भारतातील सार्वजनिक स्वच्छतेचा संबंध प्राण्याच्या देखभालीशी निगडित आहे. हे प्राणी उघड्या कचराकुंड्यामधील प्लॅस्टिक खातात आणि त्यामुळे आजारी पडतात. स्वच्छता अभियानामध्ये कचराकुंड्याची रचना बदलली तर प्राण्यांमुळे होणारी अस्वच्छता टळेल, अशी सूचना त्यांनी केली. या परिषदेमध्ये प्रयास, डॉग ट्रस्ट, सराह, एफआयएपीओसारख्या महत्त्वाच्या प्राणीमित्र संघटना सहभागी झाल्या होत्या.

Publication: The Hindu
Headline: Don't Create Milk Machines: Activist to Baba Ramdev
Date: October 22, 2016
Link: http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/dont-create-milk-machines-activist-to-baba-ramdev/article9254142.ece

THE HINDU

CITIES » MUMBAI

MUMBAI, October 22, 2016

Updated: October 22, 2016 05:38 IST

Don't create milk machines: activist to Baba Ramdev

SHIVAM PATEL

COMMENT · PRINT · T T

Tweet

Renowned anti-globalisation activist Vandana Shiva on Friday asked Yoga guru Baba Ramdev to be "*swadeshi*", after reports of him planning to start a programme for artificial insemination of Indian cows with semen from Brazilian bulls to improve the breed.

The programme is reportedly for the dairy unit of Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. to produce more milch, or female, cows and increase milk production. There are also unconfirmed reports of the programme involving the slaughter of bulls "that have no use."

Ms. Shiva told *The Hindu*, "*Swadeshi* thought recognises the value of animal energy for small sustainable farms, which you say you are connected to. The day you say bulls are useless and I will kill them, you are saying I will destroy the small farm, I will destroy the soil, I will hand over our farm to multinationals."Speaking on the sidelines of the 4th India for Animals conference, organised by the Federation of Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) here, she also asked Ramdev to respect the "sacred cow and not create milk machines", adding despite its talk of conserving cows, India has become the largest exporter of beef in the last five years.

She said a report on "ecocide and genocide" by agriculture company Monsanto for the crop epidemic, allegedly caused by the company's BT cotton seeds in Punjab, has been submitted to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Over 400 national and international animal rights activists are expected to atttend the three-day conference, which aims to build a connection between activists and organisations to create a more informed animal protection movement in the country.

Varda Mehrotra, director, FIAPO, said, "It is wonderful to see so many people come together . Contrary to common belief, animal protection involves more than dog and cat rescues. It is a bigger bucket that involves every aspect of an animal's well-being, from how they are kept on farms to their last moments in the slaughterhouse."

Publication: Daily News Analysis
Headline: For When Cows come back to happy homes
Date: October 24, 2016
Link: http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-finally-a-welfare-index-for-gaushalas-2266838

For when cows come back to happy homes

Veterinarian Dr Arvind Sharma's ongoing project to measure the welfare in gaushalas will be India's first-ever such assessment of cow shelters

Roshni Nair roshni.nair@dnaindia.net

On day two of the just-concluded India For Animals (IFA) – the country's biggest, biennial event on animal welfare and rights, organised by Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) – Dr Arvind Sharma announced his one-of-a-kind project.

Formerly with the Himachal Pradesh state government animal husbandry department, the veterinarian, pursuing his PhD from the University of Queensland, will conduct Gaushalas in India: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives, the first-ever welfare assessment of Indian gaushalas (retirement homes for old, sick, infirm, and rescued cows).

Welfare auditing of any animal shelter or establishment, be it poultry farms, equine homes or gaushalas is not undertaken in India. Assessment of gaushalas in particular is of prime importance in light of gaurakshak activism and the resultant overcrowding of shelters.

Take Rajasthan's Hingonia gaushala. Touted "the best [of its kind] in Asia", a state government report showed that 8,122 cows had succumbed to injuries and ill-health here between January and July 31 this year. In Uttar Pradesh,

For representational purposes only

30 cattle and their progeny are missing for over a month after being rescued from slaughterhouses and being sent to a gaushala in Noorpur – run by the Vrindavan Gaushala Uthhan Samiti – that did not exist.

India has 30 per cent of the world's cattle but only three per cent of the area to accommodate them, outlined Dr Sharma at his IFA session in Mumbai. With over 5.2 million stray cows – abandoned either for having exhausted their 'dairy shelf life' or due to rapid urbanisation and shrinking open spaces – the burden on gaushalas cannot be taken lightly.

"As per statistics by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), India has 1837 gaushalas. Official recognition comes when a gaushala receives AWBI funding. But as per my research, there are more than 5000 gaushalas in the country," Dr Sharma says. "So two-thirds of gaushalas are not registered since they aren't financially dependent on AWBI."

Another concern pertains to reported instances of gaushala animals being tested for the efficacy of vaccines, such as for tuberculosis.

With Gaushalas in India: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives, Dr Sharma will use animal-based indicators (health, access to food, water, movement and medical care), environmental indicators (cleanliness, ventilation, natural light, flooring) and interviews with 800-900 people (excluding 54 gaushala managers) to gauge public perceptions. In a groundbreaking move, stress levels of cows will also be measured via analysis of their tail hairs for cortisone levels.Dr Sharma's study will take an estimated three years to complete. Upon completion, a welfare index will be compiled, and gaushalas ranked on the aforementioned indicators.

"With this study, we will set welfare benchmarks, ensure long-term sustainability, and find a balance between tradition and welfare science," Dr Sharma concludes.

Publication: The Hindu
Headline: Now you can buy vegan shoes
Date: October 24, 2016
Link: http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/now-you-can-buy-vegan-shoes/article9257840.ece

Now, you can buy Vegan shoes

SHIVAM PATEL

MUMBAI: Taking a "vegan" approach towards footwear, two Kolkata-based cousins have created shoes made out of PET plastic bottles, which look just like the ones made from leather.

The shoes, made by the 'Vegan Fashion private limited', are made out of polyester fibres extracted from PET bottles and are approved to be vegan by PETA — meaning that no animals were harmed in any way to make the product —according to the developers of the product.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the 4th India for Animals Conference, the co-founder of the company, Manish Pareek (28) said he got the idea after visiting tanneries where leather is treated and made into a finished product.

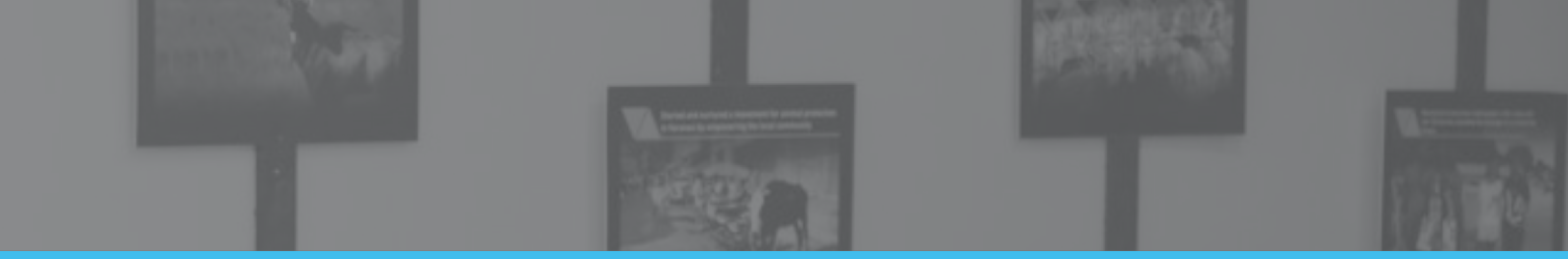
SPOILT FOR CHOICE: Shoes made of plastic waste on display at 4th India for Animals Conference in Mumbai. — PHOTO: VIJAY BATE

"The chemicals used for tanning leather are extremely harmful to the environment and are also carcinogenic (cancer-causing). These chemicals are washed down in our water bodies in the process of making the finished product, which pollutes the river and also wastes tonnes of water," he said, adding that the dismal condition of the tanneries, the persecution of animals and the poor health condition of the tannery workers pushed him to look for an alternative.

After witnessing the former, Mr. Pareek, a former financial research analyst, got drawn to biomimickery (literary meaning mimicking something from the environment) and researched on alternatives to leather developed in foreign countries. He says that products similar to his have been developed in other countries but his is the first initiative in India.

He claims that the product thus developed by him and his 24-year-old cousin Mayank Jain, is better than leather in terms of durability, strength and also resistant to water.

The shoes, priced between Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 2,500, are available at Amazon and Flipkart under the brand name 'NOHIDE', and at www.Vegshoes.in



Publication: Lokmat
Headline: Animal Protection doesn't just mean rescue of the Cats & Dogs
Date: October 25, 2016
Link: N.A, Print

प्राणी संरक्षण म्हणजे फक्त कुत्र्या-मांजरांची सुटका एवढेच नव्हे...!

मुंबई : प्राणी संरक्षण म्हणजे कुत्र्या-मांजरांची सुटका एवढेच नसून त्यात प्राण्यांच्या स्वास्थ्यासह शेतापासून कत्तलखान्यातील शेवटच्या श्वासापर्यंत त्यांना कशा प्रकारे ठेवले जाते, याचा समावेश असल्याचे प्रतिपादन फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडीयन ॲनिमल प्रोटेक्शन आर्गनायजेशनच्या संचालक वरदा मेहरोत्रा यांनी केले.

अंधेरी येथे संस्थेच्या वतीने आयोजित 'इंडिया फॉर अनिमल्स' या तीन दिवसीय परिषदेत त्या बोलत होत्या. या परिषदेला २५० हून अधिक प्राणिमित्र संघटनांनी हजेरी लावली होती. देशातील प्राणी संरक्षण चळवळ सतत वाढत आहे. मात्र अजूनही हे क्षेत्र असंघटित असून, या क्षेत्राला माहिती, शिक्षण आणि कौशल्य विकासाची मोठी गरज आहे. हे लक्षात घेऊन या परिषदेचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते.

वरदा मेहरोत्रा म्हणाल्या की, एकाच छताखाली इतक्या प्राणी-पक्षी मित्रांनी एकत्र येणे ही चळवळीची सकारात्मक सुरुवात आहे. या क्षेत्रातील समस्या मांडण्यासाठी आणि अनुभवांची देवाणाघेवाण करण्यासाठी या क्षेत्राला एकत्र आणण्याची गरज आहे. याकरिता ही परिषद एक मोठे व्यासपीठ आहे. महत्त्वाचे म्हणजे जगभरातील तळागाळातील कार्यकर्ते, व्यावसायिक आणि समाजसेवक यांना या व्यासपीठाद्वारे एकत्र आणण्यात यश येईल, असा विश्वास आहे.

दरम्यान, वेल्फेअर ऑफ ॲनिमल्स गोवा, ॲनिमल वेल्फेअर बर्ड सोसायटी, ॲनिमल केअर ट्रस्ट, लिव्हींग फ्री पुणे या संस्थांना संबंधित क्षेत्रात केलेल्या उल्लेखनीय कामगिरीबद्दल गौरवण्यात आले. (प्रतिनिधी)

Publication: Daily News Analysis
Headline: Abused Dog Bhadra Inspires Award
Date: October 26, 2016
Link: http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-bhadra-the-chennai-dog-inspires-an-award-for-activist-2267443

Abused dog Bhadra inspires award

Virat A Singh virat.singh@dnaindia.net

The heartwarming story of Bhadra, the female dog from Chennai that survived abuse and became a mascot for animal abuse cases in India, inspired the setting up of an award for activists fighting for animal rights. Bhadra's abuse received worldwide attention after a video of the two medical students from Chennai: Gautam Sudarshan, who flung a dog off the terrace, and Ashish Pal, who filmed the incident, went viral in July after. Cops launched a manhunt thereafter with increasing pressure from animal rights activists.

At the recently concluded India For Animals (IFA), organised by Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), the team from Chennai that rescued Bhadra — Antony Rubin, Jennifer Jacob, Shravan Krishnan and Karthik Dhandapani, became the first recipients of the 'Celebrate Bhadra' Award. They also pursued legal action on the case.

"We felt proud of the people who stood to fight the guilty," said Shakuntala Majumdar, President of Thane Society for Protection of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) who decided to create the award.

The group received the 'Celebrate Bhadra' Award by Norma (ext. left) Chairperson, FIAPO

The award included a cash prize of Rs 25,000. "Social media has a new video or photograph showing animals being subjected to cruelty all the time. We want to highlight people working for abuse against animals and inspire others to take up the fight," Majumdar said.

Meanwhile, Rubin, the animal rights activist who filed the FIR and the legal petition in the Bhadra case said, "We have decided to distribute the money to the heroes of our city for their amazing rescue efforts."

Publication: Sakal
Headline: Reduce Garbage to curb stray dog population
Date: October 26, 2016
Link: N.A, Print

कचरा हटवा, मग कुत्रेही जातील

विनोद कुमार : नियोजनबद्ध निर्बीजीकरणही ठरेल परिणामकारक

मुंबई, ता. २५ : शास्त्रशुद्ध आणि नियोजनबद्ध निर्बीजीकरण आणि शहरातील उघड्यावरील कचऱ्याची विल्हेवाट लावल्यास भटक्या कुत्र्यांची संख्या कमी होण्यास मदत होईल, असे मत ॲनिमल वेल्फेअर बोर्डाचे सहायक सचिव विनोद कुमार यांनी 'सकाळ'शी बोलताना व्यक्त केले. निर्बिजीकरण खूप संथगतीने सुरू असल्याने भटक्या कुत्र्यांचा उपद्रव वाढत असल्याचे त्यांनी सांगितले.

इंडिया फॉर ॲनिमल्स कॉन्फरन्स

नुकतीच झाली. यात झालेल्या भटक्या प्राण्यांवरील चर्चासत्रात विनोद कुमार सहभागी झाले होते. त्या वेळी त्यांनी 'सकाळ'कडे भटक्या कुत्र्यांच्या समस्येबाबत मतप्रदर्शन केले. विनोद कुमार म्हणाले, की कुत्र्यांच्या हद्दी

अनेक जण कुत्रे पाळायला आणतात; पण खर्च परवडेनासा झाला की त्यांना रस्त्यावर सोडून देतात. कुत्रे विक्रेतेही आजारी कुत्रे सोडून देतात. त्यामुळे भटक्या कुत्र्यांची समस्या वाढते. खर्चाची नीट माहिती घेऊनच कुत्रा पाळण्याचा निर्णय घ्यावा.
- विनोद कुमार (सहायक सचिव, ॲनिमल वेल्फेअर बोर्ड)

ठरलेल्या असतात. त्यामुळे वर्षभरात एका हद्दीतील साठ ते सत्तर टक्के कुत्र्यांचे निर्बीजीकरण झाले पाहिजे. त्यानंतर दुसऱ्या वर्षी ४० टक्के आणि तिसऱ्या वर्षी शिल्लक असल्यास त्या कुत्र्यांचे निर्बीजीकरण झाले पाहिजे. सर्वांत आधी माद्या आणि कळपप्रमुख असलेल्या नरांचे निर्बीजीकरण झाले पाहिजे. यामुळे नवीन पैदास थांबेल. अशा प्रकारे शहरात तीन वर्षे निर्बीजीकरण झाल्यास भटक्या कुत्र्यांची समस्या कमी होईल. एक एक कुत्रा पकडून त्याचे निर्बीजीकरण करण्यात अर्थ नाही, असेही त्यांनी सांगितले.

रस्त्यांवर फेकून दिलेल्या अन्नावर, तसेच कचरा कुंडीतील कचऱ्यावर भटकी कुत्री जगतात. या कचऱ्याची वेळीच विल्हेवाट लावली गेल्यास त्यांना अन्न मिळणे कठीण होईल. यामुळे त्यांचे पोषण थांबून या कुत्र्यांची संख्या कमी होईल. कचरा कुंड्या बंद करण्यासाठीही प्रशासनावर दडपण आणावे असेही ते म्हणाले.

Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations would like to thank all its sponsors for their continued support.

Share. Learn. Inspire

A FIAPO initiative presented in association with Dogs Trust

FIAPO

Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations