



Cow Universe



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Editors' Desk:

Our back-from-the-hiatus first month is gone and we still don't have a single feedback from any of our readers. Does that mean that everyone is happy with the quality of our product? I doubt. To quote His Holiness – “Dangerous are not those who criticize but those who are indifferent”. We have such a danger looming large over the head of this newsletter. The danger of not knowing where we stand in the grand scheme of things, of the effectiveness of the contribution of this newsletter is truly disheartening. The zero mail inbox of cowuniverse@gmail.com is the most unbearable sight for the editorial team to see. Are you among the indifferent lot?



There is no doubt that the revolution His Holiness has called for will achieve the grand purpose it has set out to achieve. But the question is – “What is our contribution?” Is it only going to be a few pennies worth of charity? Is that all we are capable of? If you think the answer is ‘No’ then here is your time to prove it. Think, what is that you are good at and let us know. There is a place for everyone in the Cow Universe team. Were you recently on a tour and had any firsthand experience with Indigenous cow breeds that you wish to share? We are here to hear from you. I repeat what we said in the last release – “*The cause needs everything. We need volunteers who can edit, write and review articles. We need volunteers who can contribute sketches for the newsletter. We also need volunteers who can just browse the internet in their free time, find good articles on cow and contact the author of the articles on e-mail and ask for their permission to publish them on Cow Universe. We are also looking for volunteers who can offer creative suggestions so that we can better our reach.*”

Just don't wait, tomorrow may not come. Go ahead and write to cowuniverse@gmail.com.

Hail Mother Cow

JACKIE CHAN FIGHTS FOR INDIA'S CATTLE

The below article is reproduced from www.mothercow.org and carries a letter written by Jackie Chan in 2000 to the then Prime Minister of India Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Describing himself as "greatly saddened" by the well-documented torture of the millions of Indian cattle now killed for meat and leather exports, actor Jackie Chan, Hong Kong's "Ambassador for Tourism", is urging Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to fight the widespread corruption and illegal practices that permeate the cruel transport and slaughter of cattle in India—animals whose skin and flesh end up for sale in Asia, the United States, Europe and throughout the world. The letter is timed to persuade government ministers, who are meeting in Delhi to discuss the cattle cruelty issue in early September, to make a firm action plan to stop overcrowding and suffering during transport, especially of cows smuggled out of Tamil Nadu into Kerala and Karnataka.

Referring to cattle allowed to suffocate in hot, overcrowded lorries and stabbed by children on filthy abattoir floors, Chan writes in a letter to the prime minister, "I am especially alarmed that such abuses, while illegal under India's stringent animal welfare laws, continue in this wonderful land where reverence for life is a matter of national pride". Chan's letter was penned after he watched a video appeal from former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson, a spokesperson for People for the Ethical

Treatment of Animals (PETA). In 1998, Chan was so moved by the suffering of dogs in Taiwan's pounds that he lent his voice to help PETA persuade the R.O.C. government to pass its very first cruelty to animals act.

Chan, a native of Hong Kong, is the first Asian actor to speak up for India's cows. He joins Sir Paul McCartney and Steven Seagal, as well as religious figures from all over the world, in calling for immediate action to stop abuses exposed by PETA during an undercover investigation. The animal rights organisation witnessed the bribing of guards, who allowed skin-traders to smuggle cattle across state borders, and documented the suffering of exhausted and injured cattle that are transported in the dead of night. The cows, bullocks and calves, racked with pain and filled with fear, are sent to slaughter in overcrowded trucks, enduring the long journey without food or water. When animals collapse, they are savagely beaten, have chili peppers rubbed into their eyes and have their tails broken at each joint. Many do not make it to the abattoirs alive. Those who do are often abandoned to cook alive in abattoirs such as those run by the municipal governments in Mumbai and Calcutta.

While the Constitution of India prohibits cruelty to cattle, every cattle protection law is violated daily, as the government simply looks the other way. The Indian minister for railways has refused to take action, and the prime minister has so far only written a letter to state governors (which they have

ignored). PETA are threatening to escalate their campaign if cattle suffering continues unabated.

"Will you please act right away by using the power of your great office to ensure that federal, state and municipal authorities treat these crimes as a matter of priority and enforce the laws?" Chan asks the prime minister.

Chan's letter to Vajpayee follows. Photographs and videotape from PETA's investigation are available upon request and at www.PetaIndia.com.

federal state and municipal authorities treat crimes as a matter of priority and enforce the laws?

With best wishes,
Jackie Chan

August 18, 2000

His Excellency, the Prime Minister
Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
New Delhi, India

Your Excellency,
I have been contacted by the international animal advocacy *People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals* (PETA) regarding the treatment of Indian cattle killed for meat and leather exports.

I was greatly saddened to learn of the pain and suffering endured by cattle during their transport and slaughter, I am especially alarmed that such abuses, while illegal under India's stringent animal welfare laws, continues in this wonderful land where reverence for life is a matter of national pride.

Will you please act right away by using the power of your great office to ensure that

Undercover Investigation Reveals Horrors in India's Dairy Industry

PETA India's recent undercover investigation of several dairy farms revealed shocking cruelty to cows and buffaloes. Tabelas – animal factories with no provisions for health care or animal welfare – are steadily replacing small family farms.

Buffaloes in Delhi's main dairy facility stand knee-deep in foul-smelling excrement, suffering from skin infections, foot disease and other illnesses. Garbage is piled up everywhere. Drainage, electricity and designated waste disposal sites are lacking.

In Mumbai, calves are tightly tethered on short ropes in order to prevent them from reaching their mothers, but in their struggle to get free, they often become entangled in the ropes and strangle themselves. One dairy owner reported that half the calves die shortly after birth.

An Endless Cycle of Abuse

Cows are beaten into submission and artificially inseminated so that they will keep producing milk. Although this practice should be performed by trained professionals, most cows are repeatedly inseminated by "barefoot healers" who ignore the most basic hygienic standards and use equipment that has not been sterilised, exposing cows to infections and diseases.

Most of a cow's day is spent confined to a narrow, filthy stall. Cows are injected with

Oxytocin, an illegal drug that causes them to produce unnaturally large quantities of milk and suffer severe stomach cramps as though they were in labour. Cows are impregnated repeatedly. They grieve for every calf they deliver who is ripped away a few days after birth. Cows often develop mastitis – an infection of the udders – from rough handling and rumen acidosis from unwholesome food.

Other abuses reported by PETA's investigator include:

- Calves were tethered with short chains, often without any shelter.
- Workers kicked buffaloes to make them stand. Injured animals were hit with sticks and pulled by their tails.
- Bleeding buffaloes were denied veterinary care.
- Animals were covered in their own faeces.
- Animals lived among heaps of garbage.
- Drinking water was filthy.

What You Can Do

By pledging to stop consuming dairy products – and encouraging your friends and family members to do so as well – you will be sending a powerful message that the cruel treatment of animals is unacceptable.

The History of Kamadugha

Kamadugha project is a household name today. The project revolves around with four extremely important objectives: save, grow, research and preach – Cows. This project is the brainchild of Shri Shri Raaghaveshwara Bharathee Mahaswamiji. When His Holiness realized the disturbing state of affairs in which indigenous cow breeds were, He resolved to change all that. As a matter of fact, in 1998 His Holiness announced this unique project on April 18th.

The 1998 declaration began to take shape in 2000 by the arrival of Ongole breed's Mahanandi. Along with Ongole, Sahiwal and Dangi were also brought together and thus began the noble effort of bringing together the remaining 33 breeds of cows of India. Thus the project grew in leaps and bounds and today it is receiving global attention.

Biggest Attraction: The Amrutdhara Goloka at Hosanagara. The goloka houses 30 Indian breeds as of today.

Breeds housed: Malenadu Gidda, Amrutmahal, Hallikar, Khilari, Javari, Krishnatheera, Deoni, Dangi, Gaulav, Laalkhandari, Vechur, Kasaragod, Amblacheri, Bargur, Ongole, Gir, Tharparker, Sahival, Sindhi, Kankrej, Rati, Haryana, Mali, Nimari, Nagori, Gangathiri, Kemkatha, Poonvar, Kherighar and Kangheyam.

Establishing Goshalas: 13 places – Hosanagara, Kaggalipura, Muliya, Bajakodlu, Bhogadhi, Kholhada, Hosada, Kairangala, Sheerooru, Maani, Kollamogaru, Maaluru, Ranibennur. Over

2000 cows are housed in these Goshalas. A unique project to house 1000 nandi's in Gokarna alone is under consideration. The whole plan of His Holiness is to establish 108 Goshalas all over the country.

Special centers to save endangered breeds: Malenadu Gidda – Muliya, Kairangala, Bhankuli; Kasaragod – Bhajakodlu; Krishnatheera – Hosanagara.

Gou Sanjeevini: A project to buy and protect cows that are brought to the market to be sold to slaughter houses.

Gou bank: The presence of Gou bank is in Kumta's Hosada. This is a new imagination where transactions happen in terms of Gou units. Farmers can give away their cattle in times of adversity at these centers and when better times return they can take away the cattle for free. Also, to protect homeless cows and offer them for tending to interested individuals.

Gou Mahadana (Great Charity): Almost 3000 cows were given away as charity to farmers.

Gou Products: The Arka from Cow's urine is quite popular. It can fight cancer, diabetes and blood pressure. By mixing Panchagavya that includes Cow's urine, dung, milk, yoghurt and ghee with ayurvedic herbs, health products are made. There are several cosmetics too including shampoo and soaps. In fact there is also a series of fertilizers and pesticides that are produced from the Cow.

Gou Clinics: Hosanagara, Bangalore, Mysore and Hubli.

Publications: Books – Cow the universal mother, Cow based agriculture and songs on cow.

Gou Vishvakosha: On the threshold of completion – 4 volumes ready for a release.

Newsletter: Cow universe in English and Gou Vishva in Kannada.

Gou Parivara (Family): From national to village level, a congregation of cow lovers is taking shape.

Datta Shankara Goyatra: This served as a bridge of connecting the north with south. Thousands of Kankrej breeds of Rajasthan were distributed to farmers of south India.

Indian Goyatra (2005 - 06): The tour began to raise awareness about Indigenous cow breeds among the people of India and covered 5830 km in southern India alone.

Gou Samsat (2006-07): Debates on the significance of cows in parliamentary fashion to educate people all over the nation on Cows. These parliamentary sessions were conducted in Karnataka and Kerala and culminated in Vishvagou Sammelana.

Vishagou Sammelana (2007): A festival of cows that ran for over 9 days from April 21st to 29th. Thinkers from all over the world met and discussed on the significance of Cows to human society.

Gou Sandhya (2007): A series of informative meets in over 16 centers in Bangalore.

Koti Neerajana (2007): More than one lakh mothers lit a crore lamps to celebrate the spirit of 'Mother Cow'. The event took place in the palace grounds, Bangalore on November 18th.

Deepagopura (2008): This declared Dharavad district as the first Safe haven of Cows. The event took place in Nehru

Grounds, Hubli where more than 20000 women participated.

Vishva Mangala Gou Grama yatra (2009-10): The idea is to bind the whole of the nation under one spirit, the spirit of Cow. The objective of the tour is to return back to a prosperous village system based on Cow. The journey will begin on September 30th in Kurukshetra and will cover around 20000 km in 108 days. The objective is to bring to light the atrocities that are meted to Cows and stop them and restore the respect Cows carried in our ancient culture.

In spite of all this, His Holiness believes that Cows cannot be saved by Goshalas alone. The real protection will begin in the homes of farmers and that is possible only when Cows are profitable. Hence it is imperative not only to buy milk but also industrialize all the Panchagavya products from Cow.

- Bharatheesha.