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CRUELTY AGAINST ANIMALS IN INDIA
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ABSTRACT

Cruelty against animals is an issue which has been very much active in Indian society for the past few years. Humans are known to be the most powerful animal of the animal kingdom because it has a brain which works most effectively. But in the current scenario, humans are misusing their powers to cause harm to other animals. They fail to understand that there is no gain in harming these innocent creatures of nature. This paper deals with the various acts of animal cruelty in the country and how it can be prevented.

INTRODUCTION

India is a country where millions of animals are killed to feed the non-vegetarian population of the country or in laboratories to conduct various experiments. Cruelty against animals is a cognizable offence under section 428 and 429 of the Indian Penal Code. There is a need for the formulation of new laws for the protection of animals. It is a known fact that humans and animals share a special bond, human and animals have always existed peacefully since the primitive age but lately, we have seen a lot of cruelty towards animals, which highlights the lack of humanity. News of stray dogs and cats being killed for fun, raping of animals, killing animals for skin and flesh have now become very common in our society. People doing such cruelty should be harshly punished and more laws should be formulated for the protection of animals. Majority of people are unaware of the laws made by the government to protect these innocent animals. It has been rightly said by Abraham Lincoln "I am in favour of animal rights and human rights, That is the way of a whole human being." People should understand that animals too have equal rights to live peacefully as we have and nobody has the right to restrict them from enjoying their lives.[1]

Between 2012 to 2016, there were around 24000 cases reported under animal cruelty but the actual number is much greater as many cases are not reported. Section 11(a) to Section 11(o) of Animal protection Act have provisions to protect animals. 11(a) States that no animal can be beaten, kicked, forced to carry load or work which causes mental torture.

11(b) Employing animals which because of age or sickness is unable to work is an offence under Section 11(b).

11(c) Unreasonably administering any injurious drug or toxic substances to any animal

11(d) Carrying or transporting animals in such a manner which would lead to unnecessary pain and suffering.

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[1] www.tribuneindia.com

11(e) Keeping and confining an animal in a cage which does not have enough height and width for the animal to continue it's moving freely.

11(f) Keeping an animal chained for an unreasonable period.

11(g) Being an owner of an animal if the person fails to exercise his/her duties towards the animal, it is an offence under section 11(g)

11(h) Owner should provide proper food, water and shelter to the animal and proper treatment when needed.

11(i) Owner cannot abandon the animal without any reasonable cause

11(j) Bringing animals with contagious infection in contact with other animals who are fit.

11(k) Selling of animals which are suffering from any disease or pain.

11(l) Killing of animals by poisoning or by injecting is an offence under this section.

11(m) Using animals for entertainment is an offence under this section.

11(n) Keeping animals for conducting fights and baiting is an offence under section 11(n)

11(o) Taking part in shooting or any such competition where captive animals are released to be killed or hunted.

Although these provisions are present to protect animal rights they are not very effective because the punishment for these offences is very minimal. The punishment for these offences is a fine of Rs.250 to Rs.500, which people can pay easily and getaway. Therefore people don't think twice before committing these offences.

CASES OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

Body of A leopard with it's Head and Paws Cut off, found in Maharashtra

This case was registered in Maharashtra. The carcass of a leopard was found on Wardha Mandwa road in Maharashtra, with its head and paws cut off. The picture of the dead creature was shared on social media from where people got to know about it. But unfortunately, no Justice has been done to the poor animal.

Leopard Electrocuted and Burnt in Telangana

In Telangana, five people were arrested from Adilabad district for killing a leopard by electrocution and burning its carcass. When the police interrogated them they confessed that they had fixed electric wires for poaching of animals, in the fear of getting caught they tried to burn the dead body. A case was filed in Telangana High Court.

Private Security guards in Gurgaon attempted to burn a Street dog Alive.

This act was reported in Gurgaon were five security guards of an upscale apartment in Gurgaon's sector 49 tried to bury a dog alive after beating it with batons and sticks. The incident was reported by residents who rescued the dog from the pit.

Chennai man drags dog on road, beats it up and throws it into the pond.

Dogs are supposed to be man's best friend but some people think otherwise. This case was reported in Chennai where a man was seen dragging a heavily injured dog on a busy road and

was seen throwing it into a pond filled with sewage. The man was arrested by the Chennai police.

Three men in Agra Kidnapped neighbour's pet dog and takes turn to rape it.

Three men were arrested in UP's Hathras area, as they had kidnapped their neighbour's dog and took turns to rape the poor creature. The poor creature was rescued in a very critical condition and was hospitalized for months. The people who were arrested got away just with the fine.

A Pregnant Goat was gang-raped by 8 men in Haryana

According to reports on 29th July 2018, a Pregnant goat which was reported missing was found dead in an abandoned house by the owner. Later the owner discovered the people who stole his goat. When they were charged they admitted that they had raped the goat before killing it.

Several stray dogs poisoned in Nagpur

Several carcasses of dead stray dogs were found on the roads of Mhada quarters in Kalama, Nagpur. After investigation of the dead bodies, it was found that the dogs were given poison with their food by the local meat sellers, as they thought that the dogs might steal meat from their shop.

These cases are a clear example of the devilish behaviour that humans exhibit towards innocent animals who cause no harm to humans. Strict punishments should be awarded to such people so that people are afraid of committing such heinous crimes.

The recent case that took place in India shook the entire nation and people think seriously about animal's safety.

Killing of a Pregnant Elephant by feeding pineapple stuffed with crackers

On 27th May a pregnant elephant was found dead while standing in the middle of a river in Southern Kerala, after being injured for four days. A postman reported that the elephant fed upon a pineapple that was stuffed with firecrackers. The elephant was not able to bear the pain so it stood in the middle of the river to reduce its pain. Both the mother and the baby died out of extreme pain. The villagers when charged they said they had placed those pineapples to stop wild boars from destroying crops. This is a very inhuman act which has been reported recently.

How to prevent this cruelty ?

In this scenario of the country, there is an urgent need to implement effective laws for the protection of the animals. Due to animal cruelty, many animals have already become extinct. The first toward preventing animal cruelty should be educating the youth of the country to respect animals and show minimum kindness towards them. Food and shelter should be provided to the strays by the local people, government and no profit NGOs. Free animal health care facilities should be improved. Strict laws should be implemented for the protection of animals.

Animals are not safe in pet shelters

Frequent raids should be conducted in pet shelters and adoption centre to ensure that proper care is being taken of the animals present. It should be ensured that these bodies are non-profit institutions. The government should provide aid to these shelters so that they can work more efficiently. They should find caring and loving homes for the animals present.

Adopt, don't Shop

If a person is willing to keep a pet, then the person should adopt animals instead of buying. Because firstly they are animals and not commodities, secondly demand for purchase of animals leads to forceful breeding which is very painful for animals, thirdly and most importantly adoption provides a home to many abandoned animals who need a safe home.

Do not differentiate between Pets and Strays

One should never discriminate between pets and strays because they all belong from the same animal kingdom. The pets have already got enough care but the strays are much more helpless. The least people can do is provide food to the strays and give them shelter in bad climatic situations. Strays also deserve care and affection and they are of no harm moreover they act as security guards of the roads or lanes they stay in.

Call Government helpline number, If you see an animal in need

If an animal is seen in a critical condition or need of help, everyone should be kind enough to contact nearby government healthcare for animals. The helpline number is easily available on the internet. The person can provide temporary shelter to the animal until the people from health care come and take it.

Animals for shows, festivals and sacrifices should be banned

Usage of animals for entertainment, sacrifices and festivals should be banned. Previously circuses used animals for shows, which was an act of cruelty towards the poor animals. But now it had been banned but there are still places where animals like elephants and horses are used to glamorize festivals. Even in marriages horses are used for carrying the groom. This is a very pathetic act because the animals are not meant for doing such things.

Sacrificing animals for worshipping and religious rituals should be completely banned because it is something very inhuman and no God of any religion has asked for this sacrifice.

Experiment on Animals should be stopped

Man has always taken animals for granted. They have been using animals for experiments which are for their benefit. This should be banned immediately because nobody has given the right to hamper the life of another animal. Their right to life should be respected.

Avoid products made of animal skin, bones, teeth, nails etc

Thousands of animals are killed every year just to fulfil the demand for goods which are made out of animal parts. Many animals are killed for their skin. People should understand that there is no glamour in using such goods which requires the killing of animals. If people don't demand such goods the killing of animals for their various parts will stop automatically.

No animals attack without cause

Animals we see around us are friendly in nature. They love staying around humans and have no intention of causing harm to humans. If a person is kind to animals, the animals will also show an equal amount of love to the person. Animals generally attack when they feel threatened and unsafe. So there is no need for unnecessary fear for animals.

Awareness and Implementation Should go hand in hand

The brutal treatment of the animal is a very inhuman act. Such barbaric behaviour can be prevented by implementing more strict laws by the government. Humans should understand animals are living creatures too they also feel pain as humans. Proper punishment should be awarded to the guilty person. Implementation and laws should go hand in hand.

CONCLUSION

The true test of humanity is how a human behaves with those who need help and animals are very much in need of our help and kindness. It's the correct time for people to understand that the planet earth belongs to the animals as much as it belongs to us and they are also an active part of the ecosystem. We cannot survive without animals. We also need them as much as they need us.