For the Welfare of Daily Life Wildlife -- Animal Welfare Fortnightly with a Difference

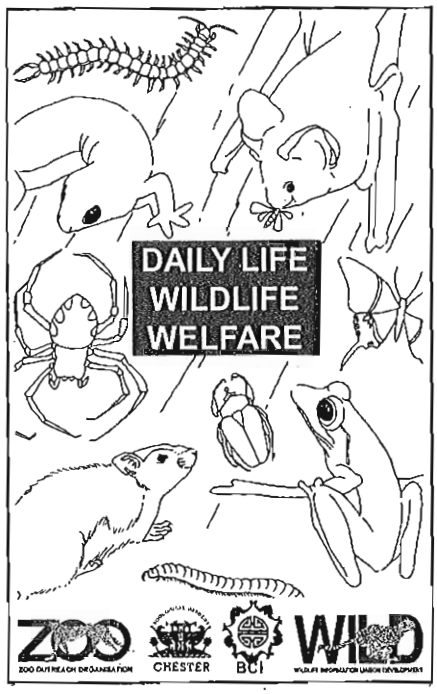
Animal welfare as a subject has been given wide publicity in recent years and perhaps most people know that there are laws and regulations governing the way people treat animals in many countries. However, few people take that knowledge into their daily lives. If people like animals and feel a sense of identity with them, they treat them well naturally, not because of legislation. If people do not like animals, or are simply unaware of them as fellow beings, they do not treat them so well. In daily life, legislation

doesn't play much of a role unless you run a zoo or a circus or research laboratory, or sell animals for food or other reasons. Ordinary people do not get punished for keeping their livestock badly or not feeding their pets. They do not get arrested for tormenting geckos and beetles for fun, although it is possible under legislation.

For normal life, we want to create an awareness and affection for animals in all human beings so that the question of mistreatment simply does not arise. We want people to form a bond with animals so that they will take responsibility for reporting or otherwise correcting mistreatment of animals when they observe it.

Animal Welfare Fortnightly

Animal Welfare Fortnightly has been organised by the Animal Welfare Board



of India for decades and is celebrated by perhaps hundreds of animal welfare organisations, wildlife NGO's and zoos throughout India. For the last nearly two decades Zoo Outreach Organisation has provided materials to zoos to use in their organised functions.

Zoo Outreach Organisation material focus on wild animals instead of domestic animals, and this year, our focus has been on wildlife that we meet in daily life, -- in the home, on the streets, in rural areas, in the zoo -- rather than in the forest. Animals are all around us, particularly in India where the house gecko is a fixture and we often share the roads with goats, bullocks and even elephants sometimes. We wish to create an awareness of the value of animal life in young children and shape their values such that they would not treat other living creatures cruelly.

Tigers are nocturnal (night loving) even in the zoo

"Please let me sleep!"

Zoo Patrol Kit

Animal Welfare Fortnight, 2003

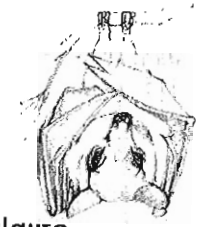
Animal Welfare Board of India, Z.O.O., Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

UFAW, a science-based animal welfare organisation in UK donated funds to create and implement an animal welfare programme for teachers, using the zoo as a venue for teaching these aspects of daily life wildlife welfare. This packet was introduced during Wildlife Week. For Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2003 we made improvements on it and also added a kids packet featuring correct behaviour in the zoo (requested by zoo directors in a survey). We have also developed a new packet on the Welfare of Daily Life Wildlife for teaching and distribution to older kids and even young adults, by zoos, welfare organisations, and other NGO's.

The set of materials -- for teachers, kids, and older youngsters -- were offered to people and institutions which we now call our "partners in wildlife education". As usual, we will be running reports of how they used the materials.

Know your Wildlife Welfare

ABCs



A always
B be
C caring for
D daily-life wildlife
E everyday
F forever

so you can be a
W wildlife welfare
X xtra-heroic
Y young
Z zoologist