

Animal Welfare Handbook for Compassionate Citizens

Simple but important things to do to initiate an animal friendly community:

1. Ensure all pet animals are vaccinated annually against Rabies / Canine / Feline diseases. Your dog can get Rabies through bites from rats, mongoose, monkeys or other dogs- if not vaccinated. Rabies has no cure and when manifested, death is certain. The only way to prevent Rabies is by vaccination of dogs annually. If 70% of the dogs in the area are vaccinated, Rabies can be eradicated.
2. Sterilise your pet for better health and happier temperament. Breeding is a science and bad breeding can cause genetic health problems in the offsprings. We advise animal lovers not to breed pets unless they are licensed Breeders. There is ample scientific evidence that a sterilized pet is a happier pet.
3. If you have stray animals on your street (we call them community animals) please have them sterilized and vaccinated against Rabies. Stray animals come for our garbage and killing them only creates a vacuum quickly filled by new dogs who may bite and attack or carry Rabies. Sterilised and vaccinated community dogs are an asset to the community and create Rabies free zones, become local guards etc. Contact your local Municipal authority at 24617017 to catch, sterilize and relocate them.
4. In the case of a monkey / rat/ dog bite, wash the wound well with soap and running water till all traces of saliva are gone. Use an antiseptic like Savlon and keep the wound open. Do not bandage the wound. See a Doctor immediately. Try to find out if the animal was vaccinated against Rabies. Post bite vaccine needs to be taken from day one if the animal was not vaccinated. The animal should be monitored for behaviour signs of Rabies (like excessive salivation and undue aggression, attacking even non living objects)
5. To keep away monkeys: Allow local community dogs to live on your street. Do not throw garbage externally. Do not feed monkeys under any circumstances. Keep mesh doors and windows locked. Use noisy fire crackers to deter them if they show aggression. Monkeys are wild animals and can get very aggressive so please do not engage them.
6. Responsible Garbage disposal:
Garbage attracts stray animals. Plastic kills these animals, particularly hungry cows, and pollutes the earth. Start a neighbourhood campaign to avoid plastic bags and use alternatives instead. Educate people to give kitchen waste for community composting. Organize a local door to door Garbage collection scheme to ensure proper garbage management. No garbage means no stray animals! To be environment conscious look at your waste: Reduce, Reuse, Refuse & then Recycle.
7. Carry your own shopping bag when you shop and avoid using disposable ones. When giving flowers avoid the plastic wrapping or give a potted plant instead!

8. Avoid using the following: They are not good for the environment & not good for you and responsible for the death of hundreds of other animals like cats, dogs, birds : Phenoyl, Rat poison, Insecticides & Pesticides. Use non-toxic deterrents instead.
9. Place a water trough outside your gate and keep fresh water for the birds and animals.
10. When you see a snake
 - a) Let it be if it is non-venomous (b) Call Friends of Snakes if it is venomous
11. When you see an injured animal call Blue Cross animal rescue service (9AM to 5PM). Help the animal till the rescue vehicle arrives: shift to side of road into shade, give water, first aid etc.
12. If a baby bird falls from it's nest put it back into the nest. Encourage children not to disturb birds. A bird bath / feeder or nesting box in your garden or roof can be a nice way to show the birds you care. Sparrow boxes are available for people who want to help sparrows.
13. If you are planning to get a pet, think about adopting an Indian dog or Cat. You will be giving a homeless animal a home and proving your patriotism!

Animal Helplines / Email:

Blue Cross of Hyderabad Animal Rescue (9am- 5pm) 32989858. After hours for emergencies only. Other land line nos: 23544355, Tel/Fax: 2354 5523. Email: bluecrosshyd@gmail.com

People for Animals, Hyderabad Tel/Fax: 040- 27537540, 41, 42 Night Rescue: 9951592169 (Hanumanthu) Email: pfahyderabad@gmail.com Vasanthi Vadi (Hon.Sec.): 98490 27601

Friends of Snakes: 9866610200

REPORTING CRUELTY CHECKLIST

You can make a real difference- the new Animal Welfare Law ensures that offenders are punished.

As a direct consequence of public action, dozens of successful investigations and actions are made each year and hundreds of animals are saved from further suffering. If in doubt contact us for advice. Read our checklist to take positive action:

Take a note of what you've seen, using the checklist below, and then call our helpline 040-32989858. You will be asked to give a detailed description of what you have seen or heard, so be ready to give the following information.

- Your own name, address and telephone number for our records. It is Blue Cross policy to treat all complaints in the strictest confidence. Your name will not be disclosed without your permission, but the Inspector will need to contact you if you want to know about the result

of his or her investigation. Please note that this may only be when the investigation has been concluded. ☒

- The date, time and place of the offence. ☒ Photographs showing the cruelty involved may provide vital evidence in a prosecution case. If by any chance you have a camera on hand and it is safe for you to use it, please do - mention this to the controller who handles your call.
- Our investigator will need to ask you a series of questions about the animal(s) involved to establish the scenario. ☒ This will relate to what you have seen in relation to the animal's environment and its bodily condition. The Blue Cross believes that the basic welfare of all animals must take into account the 'Five Freedoms'. These are: ☒- freedom from hunger and thirst ☒- freedom from discomfort ☒- freedom from pain, injury or disease ☒- freedom to express normal behaviour ☒- freedom from fear and distress. ☒
- If known, the name(s) and address(es) of the person(s) involved. ☒
- The names and addresses of any witnesses. ☒
- The registration number and description of any vehicle involved.

Prevent Cruelty to Animals! Here is what you can do:

Issue: Do you know of a temple where animal sacrifice takes place?

Action: Report it in writing to your local Police station or animal welfare group. Find out how you can campaign to prevent it.

Issue: Do you have a chicken shop near your home or place of work that transports chickens upside down?

Action: Counsel them that they must use a basket or cage to transport the chickens. Hanging chickens upside down is a crime and can be reported to the Traffic Police. Get more customers to demand that chickens are carried in baskets.

Issue: Do you see astrologers carrying parrots in cages?

Action: Report him to the PFA or Blue Cross. Counsel people not to encourage these practices.

Issue: Do you see a pet tied up all day, every day?

Action: Please counsel owners not to tie up their pet as tying makes them ferocious. Animals are naturally territorial and tying them up for lengths of time is a big punishment, both physically and psychologically damaging. An abused pet is damaged for life. Ensure pets are vaccinated against Rabies / Canine / Feline diseases. If they do not respond to counseling email or call the PFA or Blue Cross and report it.

Issue: Do you know of any animal breeder that keeps the animals in pathetic, cramped and unhygienic conditions?

Action: Please take pictures if you can, and report it to us. See reporting checklist below.

Issue: Do you know any school that dissects live animals for Biology class?

Action: Request the teachers to use alternatives to live dissection that are kinder, known to get better results and readily available. Models and computer software are available for demonstration at Blue Cross & P.F.A.

Issue: Have you seen lorries carrying cattle overcrowded and piled on top of each other?

Issue: Have you seen any form of animal abuse?

Action: Note the details and report the cruelty, preferably with evidence. The more people the number of people who object, the more likely cruelty to animals will be stopped.