

# Global companion animal welfare

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China 2008

# How did it all begin?

- In Great Britain:
- 1811 Lord Erskine asked in the House of Lords for 'justice to the lower creatures of God'. He was ridiculed!
- 1822 Richard Marten MP successfully introduced an Act to Prevent the Cruel and Improper Treatment of Cattle
- 1824 SPCA emerged

# How was it funded?

- Reverend Arthur Broome determined to form group to help enforce the Act.
- Arranged meeting, small group of people with 'social conscience' attended – including William Wilberforce MP who abolished slavery in the colonies (movie: Amazing Grace)
- Funds were raised, but soon used!

# What happened?

Rev Broome used his own money

He was responsible for debts of SPCA

Went to prison until friends paid money to release him

Very difficult years – little public support.

# International interest

1840 Queen Victoria gave 'royal' seal of approval

Other countries asked RSPCA for help to set up SPCA's e.g. France  
Germany, Holland, USA,  
Australia

# Education

Some SPCA's

e.g. Queensland, Australia  
also included issues of  
cruelty to children and old  
people

# Humane Education

1884 invitations sent to schools in Brisbane asking students to write essay on the duty and benefits of kindness to dumb animals. Start of tradition in educating young people in animal welfare issues

# 1888 Junior Club formed: Pledge

“We agree to be kind to animals and to do all in our power to protect them from cruelty and promote their humane treatment”

Junior branch of Band of Mercy

# Many similarities to present day

At the beginning of the animal welfare movement, funds donated by the founders

Few pioneers; public indifference and ridicule

Legislation & education recognised as key factors

# Past & present - Research: Exploitation? Necessity? Desirable?



# Animals in entertainment: Desirable?



# Exploitation? Desirable?

Do we exploit companion animals?

Do we as animal advocates exploit the dogs and cats that share our lives?

Some animal 'rights' advocates believe that to own a dog or a cat is exploitation and is a selfish act

# Working: Exploitation or necessity?



# Companion animals: Exploitation? Desirable?

Dogs and cats bred for showing

Search & rescue dogs

Dogs & cats as therapy in hospitals, prisons,  
care centres for the elderly

Guide dogs for blind people; hearing dogs for  
deaf people; dogs for disabled people

Shelters, sanctuaries, re-homing centres

# TCM: Exploitation? Necessity?



# Global activity: exploitation

Animal use may vary slightly from country to country depending on e.g. culture, tradition, economic, political situation.

Exploitation = make use of and derive benefits from; make use of unfairly; benefit unjustly from

# Government reactions:

- Large scale animal use/abuse is sanctioned by most governments at certain times e.g foot and mouth UK
- Similarities among different countries - e.g. dog killing as a reaction to rabies

# Do our hearts rule our heads?

- The majority of people around the world who become involved in animal welfare do so for the right reason i.e. they care
- But do we really understand what ‘the welfare of animals’ means in practise?
- Do we confuse animal welfare, animal rights, conservation?

# Rabies Control : Jodphur. Example of a Practical Project

## Aims to:

- evaluate and expand upon current knowledge in the field of canine rabies control
- establish a programme that can be replicated
- improve rabies control and dog population strategies
- advance the knowledge of street dog ecology and management of large scale sterilization programmes

## Jodhpur aims continued:

- contribute data on the incidence of rabies in Jodhpur's canine and human populations
- increase the technical skills and capacity of local veterinarians in the field of canine medicine, surgery and welfare

# Terminology and definitions

- Animal welfare: care of the **individual**
- Animal rights: have the **right** to be free from human use and ownership
- Conservation: concern for the **species**
- Humane Education: a **process** which encourages an understanding and respect for humans, animals, the environment and recognises the interdependence of all living things

# Which category describes our activities?

If we have shelters, catteries, rehoming centres then we do not follow the animal rights philosophy

Animal rights philosophy equates ownership of animals with slavery. The strict philosophy dictates that animals should not be domesticated (Peter Singer)

# World Animal Net

Over 16,000 organisations concerned with animal welfare; animal rights; animal protection are listed in:

## ***World Animal Net Directory***

How many have 'focus'? How many try to be 'all things to all animals and all people'?

# Extreme viewpoint?

The pet industry is a form of slavery.....a pet is a prisoner of human society. A human decides where it goes, what it does, what it eats, how it lives and how it dies

Source:Animal Liberation Front

# Jodhpur: scientific project

## Strategies:

- implement a canine sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination programme in collaboration with WHO
- enlist co-operation and involvement of local residents through targeted media and public education campaigns
- rabies prevention education to 166 schools with emphasis on children aged 5 -15

# Five Freedoms: integral part of project

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress

# Developments in the movement

- Such projects as Jodhpur are in marked contrast to the overcrowding and 'ad hoc' methods of many shelter and re-homing facilities - has credibility and recognition.
- But is the work sustainable? Currently funded by private donor with grants from Trusts
- If funds cannot be generated from local area, project will close.

# Global changes:

- Similar projects to Jodhpur are beginning in all continents of the world e.g. Italy, Bali, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone. Why? Funds? Expertise?
- 1960s and 1970s 'the man in the street' grew in confidence and started to question authority
- Civil rights movement, anti-war, women's rights, peace, care of environment, conservation, public demonstrations, greater freedom for press in the west

# Different philosophies

- Animal rights – animals should not be exploited by humans
- Animal welfare – animals can be used, but should be treated humanely
- Conservation – species matter, but the individual animal does not
- There are many variations of these views

# Summary:

- Although the animal welfare and animal rights movement has their origins dating back to the 1800's, the practical work is still largely dependent on the generosity of private individuals and the general public.
- The difficulties for the early pioneers are still experienced today e.g. indifference; ridicule; lack of funds; lack of government commitment; 'hearts ruling our heads'

# Developments in animal rights and welfare

- Science: progress in animal welfare research – pain, behaviour, needs
- Law: Cases for the rights of animals; Great Ape Project – granting rights to non-human apes
- Psychology/Social sciences: Human-animal interaction
- Philosophy/Ethics: Arguments for animal rights e.g. prolonged kenneling and caging

# Government 'willingness'?

- Few SPCA's or similar receive funding from government departments
- If it is seen as a 'social good', why not?
- There is a long way to go before our work is officially recognised as a social necessity
- Funding from government departments usually a token gesture to divert criticism

# Conclusion: you are not alone!

- China is seen by the world as a rapidly developing super power
- human rights and animal concerns are becoming increasingly significant within and external to China
- engage with international agencies, but recognise cultural differences
- have constructive dialogue with decision makers – give them global information

# Animal protection work in China: caution!

- Don't try and run before you can walk!
- Use the Five Freedoms to measure animal welfare
- Understand what animal welfare means in practice
- Decide what you can do, then do it well
- Remember that you alone cannot change the world, but you can influence others and collectively you will influence change.

# John Stuart Mills 1806-1873

Quote by influential 19<sup>th</sup> century philosopher

***All great movements must experience 3 stages: ridicule; discussion; acceptance.***

In Europe after almost 200 years the animal welfare movement is at the discussion stage, although ridicule still exists. China is now experiencing the beginnings of the discussion stage. What you do and say today, will shape tomorrow.

# Global situation

- More NGOs are emerging.
- The role of NGOs is developing and having a 'voice'
- Increase in public awareness activities public concern
- More people interested in public affairs and international issues

# Companion animals: Current thinking on shelters

- Prolonged kenneling and caging in small noisy spaces tends to drive dogs and cats insane. Neither dogs or cats would chose such accommodation in the wild. No humane society would adopt a dog or cat to anyone who planned to keep the animal in the equivalent.....Many shelters would fail the Animal Welfare Act standards for laboratory dog and cat housing.....

Source: Animal People News

# Stay focussed and realistic

- Animal welfare as priority – develop plans according to your resources – put theory into practice
- Be realistic about what **you** can do – promote animal welfare as a ‘social good’
- Use and adapt successful global strategies
- Make friends with decision makers – you need them on your side.
- Remember that ‘every drop of water makes a difference’