



### **AfA Animals for Asia Conference**

The next Asia for Animals conference is January 10-12, 2007 in Chennai, India. All are welcome! Please visit the website: <http://www.asiaforanimals.org/> or email us at [AfA2007@gmail.com](mailto:AfA2007@gmail.com)

### **Read about the 2005 Conference**

The biennial animal welfare conference Asia for Animals, will be held in Chennai, India, from the 10th of January until the 12th of January, 2007. The venue will be the Hotel GRT Grand Days Convention Center, Pondy Bazaar, Chennai 600 017, India. For more information email us at [AfA2007@gmail.com](mailto:AfA2007@gmail.com)

This emphasis for Asia for Animals 2007 will be upon consolidating experiences in the region with an eye to developing new strategies and facilitating change. In the main sessions governmental and non-governmental representatives and experts will be debating the following topics:

#### **Topics of the conference**

- ZooCheck Work in Asia
- Stray Animal Management
- Rescue Centre Operations
- Farm Animal Welfare
- The Role of Government Agencies in Animal Protection
- Tackling the Wildlife Trade
- Media & Communication Strategies for NGOs

#### **Hands-on Workshop Series**

Aside from the main session presentations, a series of related, hands on, expert-facilitated workshops will be incorporated into the programme. The objective of these workshops is to discuss methods, strategies and solutions for animal advocacy/conservation workers in Asia in a more intimate environment. Registration for these workshops is on the first day of the conference.

#### **Flexible Attendance**

The whole conference spans three days. There are many flexible attendance possibilities, as well as different accommodation options available to international participants. Whether you are actively involved in animal welfare/conservation work or are a member of the public with an interest in these concerns, this conference will bring you together with many of the most dynamic NGO groups and individuals from across the region.

#### **History**

Asia for Animals is a biennial animal welfare conference, the first of which was held in Manila, Philippines, in 2001. This was followed by Hong Kong in 2003 and Singapore in 2005. AfA Manila was co-sponsored by IFAW, HSI, HK SPCA,

and Philippines Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) -all of whom have been continuing their sponsorship for subsequent AfAs. AfA 2007 is being organised by the Blue Cross of India.

#### **Invitation from the Sponsor**

India is a country famous for its rich and ancient cultural and spiritual heritage. It offers an amazing and unparalleled diversity of people, culture, languages, food, geographical and weather conditions and flora and fauna. India is a unique destination where spirituality can be experienced in every walk of life along with the dynamism of being a country producing the largest number of technical graduates and engineers and home to some of the largest software companies in the world.

A country which is a member of the exclusive nuclear club and which is one of the very few countries capable of launching satellites into orbit.

The land of some of the wonders of the world including the Taj Mahal and the iron pillar which stands without rusting or corroding for hundreds of years. The land which produced wootzsteel from which the world famous Damascus blades were made. A country where one of the largest radio telescopes in the world peer out into the heavens from lands on which some of the world's holiest men have trod. The birthplace of the Hindu way of life from which the great religions of Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism flowered. A land to which St. Thomas (of doubting Thomas fame) brought Christianity to India four hundred years ago.

And through all the above pervades the spiritual heritage of five thousand years. Where ahimsa and non-violence have been held up as an ideal to be followed and where animals were and are worshipped and looked after. Where the first animal shelters to look after old animals have existed for over a thousand years.

India today is a country where a large number of poor people live side by side with some of the wealthiest. And where cruelty to animals exists in spite of some of the finest pieces of legislation offering protection to them. Experience India when you register for the Asia for Animals Conference 2007.

Register online, or download faxable form, or email us at [AfA2007@gmail.com](mailto:AfA2007@gmail.com)

#### **Logo Rationale**

In the words of a famous philosopher and writer, Indian religions have a "feeling of sacredness of all life, which finds its expression in the negative doctrine of ahimsa or non-injury to all creatures and in the positive one of karuna and maitri, i.e. active compassion and service..." This trait "developed as a historical process in the culture of India". From earliest times "the religious validity of animal sacrifice was questioned and its practice discountenanced". There was always criticism of meat eating. The "idea of ahimsa or non-injury to every living creature was given the greatest value" by Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. If there is anything that is uniquely Indian, it is this concept of ahimsa.