
ANIMAL WELFARE INSPECTOR TRAINING COURSES GOING ON WELL

A few years ago the Animal Welfare Board of India requested the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, U.K. (R.S.P.C.A.) to collaborate with the Board and the Ministry of Environment to create a Training Course for Animal Welfare Inspectors. A detailed and lengthy Training Programme for Trainers was held in Madras to which very carefully selected people were invited. These persons were to be responsible for training Trainers of Inspectors.

After this course the graduates, with financial assistance from the Animal Welfare Board of India began conducting Training for Trainers at the local level. Now there a very large number of trained Trainers as well as trained Inspectors. This programme continues and every year there are several training courses held regionally with the idea that the graduates will go back to their home area and hold training workshops for local welfare heads, members, and other local persons who are responsible for animals.

Zoo Outreach Organisation has been peripherally involved in this programme from the initial training. Our Founder/ Secretary gave a one-day seminar on zoos at the very first course and more recently at the Trainers course in Madras, organised by a graduate of the earlier course. On these occasions ZOO supplied basic materials on zoos to all participants, such as the World Zoo Conservation Strategy, the Central Zoo Authority Zoo Rules, the ZOO Ed Book and a variety of educational materials felt to be helpful to welfare persons. In the presentations the point is always made that positive and constructive action is more effective than criticism.

Erode Animal Welfare Training Course

Last month Sri Veerabhadran of Erode organised a Training Workshop and requested that his participants visit the ZOO office and learn more about zoo and wildlife welfare. The participants also visited Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History in Coimbatore as well as the VOC Park Zoo.

The Animal Welfare Board of India conducted five days training programme during the month of October 1996 in Erode. The main objective of the programme is to educate school teachers, veterinary doctors, police officers, forest department and private citizens interested in Animal Welfare so that they might bring awareness among the public. The citizens themselves can stop cruelties committed against animals and make others animal welfare conscious and to be more sympathetic towards them.

About fifteen participants representing different department and welfare roles participated in the programme. As a part of their programme the group visited ZOO office on 7 October 1996. The group was given a presentation about the philosophy and activities of ZOO/ CBSG India and other animal welfare organisations networks with ZOO. Information related to the role of Zoos in Conservation and concept of modern Zoo, details about central Zoo Authority and its role; Zoos in India and their status, and facts about the Indian Wildlife Protection Act. A lively discussion was held about the role of zoos in conservation and whether a bad zoo conveyed any productive

conservation or welfare message.

The group were interested to know about the aims and objectives of some of the animal welfare organisations abroad including their activities and literatures they publish, etc. A much highlighted point in the discussion concerned the various collaborative projects of ZOO with the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare (UFAW). The participants were briefed about the ongoing project of Mahout Training Course.

Lastly, the discussions focused on regulations regarding keeping wild animals in captivity and the need for captive breeding. Zoo management and visitor behaviours were also discussed. Participants discussed different problems in their area with regard to Zoos and evaluated themselves accordingly. They were asked to make their visit to VOC Park Zoo, Coimbatore with the Zoo Act and its norms in mind.

They were given a large packet of materials sponsored by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare.

The participants ranged from simple welfare enthusiasts and members of local welfare agencies to persons who deal with animals or teach about them as part of their profession such as Erode VOC Park Superintendent and also the Gardener. two Erode policemen, Constable and Head Constable, three university lecturers, and Superintendent of the Education Department of Erode.

Mhow Animal Welfare Training

A five-day Training Programme was organised in Mhow at the Government Veterinary College, Mhow. The programme began with a press conference and inaugural. The training Resource Persons consisted for the most part of veterinary doctors, an attorney and the Veterinary Officer of the Indore Zoo, Dr. A.K. Mahodaya. Handling of domestic animals, disease, welfare problems, training and wildlife made up a full and fascinating programme. The Programme was organised by Professor K.K. Paliwal, Associate Professor, College of Agriculture, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh who is an Honorary Education Officer of the Animal Welfare Board.

These training programmes are reaching very deep into grass roots community. It will have a far reaching effect as the programme continues with persons teaching those who can immediately put what they have learned into effect.

The Animal Welfare Board of India can be very proud of this programme. Zoo Outreach Organisation is proud to be a small part of it.

