



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANIMAL PROFESSIONALS**

Dear Members,

I am pleased to say that we have been able to collect so many interesting articles from around the world for this Newsletter.

As you know ISAP represents the education of all animals. Many of you study for a canine qualification or are indeed already qualified and work with dogs. But there are also numerous members whose interests lie in other directions and it is always a pleasure to read about so many different creatures in our Newsletter.

I am pleased to announce that we are currently planning a new website for ISAP. Hopefully we will get it off the ground within the next few months. We are also encouraging our Ambassadors to set up discount schemes in their country for our members so that certain items can be bought cheaper if you are a current member of ISAP. Hopefully I will have some more news by December about this scheme.

If you have any specific idea which may benefit our members then please share it with us.

I hope you all have a lovely summer or snowy winter – wherever you are in the world – and keep caring for our animals!

With very best wishes

Brigitte

What about dogs in Greece.

Having been a dog owner for many years and also, a dog trainer and a

pet hotel owner, gave me the advantage of having a clearer view of what is happening with dogs in Greece. More or less, i realise that the same stands for the rest of the world.

As dog owners, we all fall in the arms of our nature and act almost the same way. We misinterpret the instincts and needs of our pets and react as our own instincts command us. That means that some of us are more tolerant, some oversensitive, some more strict, some cruel to them.

We choose to adopt a dog, we either choose a breed that we like or save a stray dog- either we want one or this one has just crossed our path - and the least we can do is to train ourselves to understand and help this new member adjust to our family. So we end up confused and distressed by the difficulties and make our lives in many cases unbearable. We then choose to find a dog trainer or just, let the dog out on the streets.

In an attempt to train a dog, one has two choices, either train the traditional way or train with no force (Positive training). Usually dogs with aggression towards people or other dogs or both are hard to be trained with the traditional training methods, so they end up , as their last shot with a positive trainer. In many cases the aggression is caused by the wrong methods of training. If the owner really wants to help, his dog will try hard to do it. But i have met a few, that didn't have the patience and just gave up hope for their dog. Once someone said to me " I give you one week to fix my aggressive dog. If still nothing happens, i will skin him alive".

As dog owners, we all must follow the law of our state. No dog is allowed to walk free on the street. Every dog should walk on the leash, near his owner and may wear a muzzle if the dog shows aggression. Still some believe that they know more and decide to ignore this. They walk their dog without a leash and advise all to do the same. They force all the rest to put up with their dog's misbehaviour. In an attempt to "socialize" their dog, they gather in dog parks- or any park- and let them play unattended. Small, big, puppies or youngsters, older or forceful. Only huge problems come out of this. But they claim they know better.

If you walk in the cities you may as well find too many stray dogs lying here and there. Most of them are harmless but there are some showing great sings of aggression towards people or dogs, or both. How come there are so many?? Well there are people who just let them out. There are those who choose to let their dog reproduce and let out the unwanted puppies who are not given to someone and of course there are those stray dogs that the state hasn't castrated or spayed and they reproduce on their own.

In the countryside the problem seems even worst. People who choose to let their dog out on the street, they drive out into the country, find a place where other dogs are straying, or a spot in the fields where many people pass, and just abandon them there. Dogs form groups. Those who survive, may spread around and make the territory their own. They guard these territories against other strays or even worse dogs that live with families. To be honest it is very difficult to walk your dog because of all those stray groups. Sometimes it is difficult even for us to walk on our own.

In the case of a dog on the streets, i must say, that there is no state planning on how to manage its fate. Only in the recent years, the state has introduced a law that says that every stray female should be neutered and set free again in the place that she was found. Only if a dog is very aggressive should he be picked up and sent to a shelter. What will happen to it will be decided by "experts" in the field. There are no shelters for stray dogs and if some exist they are in the worst of conditions. The work of taking care of the strays is

in the hands of simple people who care for them. Their care is to find the resources to vaccinate, castrate and feed them. They also keep and nurse them. Their “job” is also to find new homes for them, inside or out of this country. Many devote their lives to this cause. Many lose their way on their attempt to care for the strays. Many choose to keep more than one in their own homes- may end up with eight or ten or more- as they are not willing to let any of them find new homes with the excuse that no one will love and care for them better than they do. Many pay from their own money, for vaccinations, food and pet hotels to keep stray dogs until they find a new home for them.

Many steps forward have been made. Many things have changed. Still too much needs to be done.

For all of us who work with dogs every day, there is a future to make it better for man’s best friend.

- Dimosthenis Moumiadis -

H.Dip. CBP / FISAP / Trainer - Canine Behaviourist

Full Member of I.C.B

Ambassador of Greece for I.S.A.P

Article by Martin Mabeifam, our Ambassador for Ghana:

## Agogo Fulani Cattle are victims in Agogo clashes

“When two elephants fight it is the grass that suffers.' I think that is what has happened to the cows. Between the Fulani and the indigenous people I think of them as the two elephants fighting and the cows have become the grass that has suffered as the consequence,” an animal welfare activist says.

- Published: 17.02.2016



- Stacey Knott

Cattle have become the victims in clashes between Fulani herdsmen and locals in Agogo, an animal welfare activist says.

Police and security personnel have been deployed to Agogo in the Ashanti region to deal with the ongoing conflict between nomadic Fulani herdsmen and locals. They are working to drive the Fulani out.

The Fulani herdsmen over the years have clashed with Agogo residents for damaging their crops and farms. The Fulani herdsmen have been accused of engaging in robbery, rape and the murder of residents in the process.

The security action comes after residents of the area vowed to take on the nomadic herdsmen after a farmer was alleged to be gunned down by the Fulanis.

Speaking with Pulse News, Ashanti Regional Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Mohammed Tanko said the Fulani situation had calmed down but police and the military were still working to move Fulani from the region. He said about six Fulani herdsmen had been arrested and the security forces were working with the locals to find out the routes they used.

He said a [number of Fulani cattle](#) had been killed by the locals about three weeks ago and police were unable to find those responsible.

He said police urged locals not to take the law into their own hands and kill the Fulani's cattle. They needed to let security forces deal with the situation.

Animal welfare activist Ujakpa Martin Mabeifam, who is a Ghana Technology University College lecturer and chief executive officer for the Society for the Welfare of Animals Ghana said animals should only be destroyed if they were directly posing harm to human life.

“In this particular incident [locals killing Fulani cattle], personally I don't see the human life that has been put in danger.”

Mabeifam quoted an African proverb to explain the situation, “‘when two elephants fight it is the grass that suffers.’ I think that is what has happened to the cows. Between the Fulani and the indigenous people I think of them as the two elephants fighting and the cows have become the grass that has suffered as the consequence.”

Mabeifam referred to the Ghana Criminal Code which outlined it was illegal to cruelly cause harm or hurt animals.

This was the first time a large number of animals had been killed in Ghana that wasn't related to preserving human life or health, like when poultry was destroyed because of bird flu, Mabeifam said.

In a development this week, ASP Tanko indicated that the Fulani men were using the cattle to charge at the security forces.

“The Fulani are able to command the cattle. It's as if the cattle understand the Fulani man. He can say one thing and all of them will stop, he can say another thing and all of them will charge. So the men on the ground sometimes face a situation where a Fulani man will command the cattle to charge and in that situation they have to resort to the power of their arms to be able to protect themselves.”

Because of this, [the security personnel have been directed](#) to shoot at animals that attack them.

Mabeifam also said Fulani could control the cattle and communicate with them.

He said news that police were given permission to shoot and kill animals that charged at them was understandable as they needed to defend themselves.

“I don't see anything wrong. It's up to the Fulanis to control the animals. The police are not going out there to kill the animals.”

**Article by Eric Albert, our Ambassador for the USA.**

**People hurt their dogs all of the time. Most often it is unintentionally. And, what knowledge most of us dog owners take for granted may not be common knowledge for all dog owners!**

**So I've compiled 10 distinct ways in no particular order that you or someone you know might be inadvertently hurting your dog.**

**1. No exercise**

Dogs need exercise. It doesn't matter if they are 2 pounds or 250 pounds or if they are puppies, adults, or geriatric dogs; all dogs need exercise.

Exercise is crucial to mental well-being was well-being.

Exercise is also crucial to us humans!

So get out there and exercise your dog as much as he needs!

## **2. No nail trims**

People think they are doing their dog a service by ignoring the long growth of his nails.

He may scream and pitch a fit or even try to bite, but the truth is unless you have one of those rare dogs who's foot conformation wears down his nails your dog will need regular nail trims.

I know I have mentioned it and shown it before (because I really think it is important) nails that are allowed to grow too long, and nails that curl under can not only cut into the pad but they can also cause arthritis and pain in the toes and feet.

Imagine never clipping your nails, pretty soon your toe nails would be causing you pain and the added length makes them more susceptible to being ripped completely off.

If you can't trim them yourself, take your dog to your vet and pay them to do it for you!

They need to be trimmed every 2 weeks!

## **3. Wrong equipment**

Equipment that doesn't fit or causes pain can do damage to your dog.

I see several people who use no pull harnesses and head halters that are way, way, way too loose. The loose nylon then rubs hair off the face, from under the arm pits, across the chest and in other areas.

Although most equipment shouldn't be TIGHT (although gentle leaders and other head halters will seem tight to some) it also shouldn't be loose enough to rub.

Think shoes, people! When your shoes are too big you get blisters, when your shoes fit they feel good.

And, corrective devices such as choke chains (metal or nylon) and pinch or prong collars can get caught and strangle dogs. It is best not to use these tools at all, but if you do, use them only when your dog is monitored.

## **4. Table scraps**

Table scraps can kill your dog.

I used to work in a veterinary clinic, and after every major holiday we would have numerous dogs hospitalized because they ate too many "goodies" with their owners.

Dogs don't metabolize fat like we humans metabolize fat.

And, they don't commonly eat a lot of fat (usually) in their normal diet.

You may think that you are spoiling your dog with a yummy greasy piece of bacon, but his pancreas may not be able to metabolize it and it may cause it to get inflamed and your dog to be severely sick.

In severe cases, dogs die from pancreatitis. Unless it is low fat, and low salt (like boiled chicken breast), avoid giving it to your dog.

And, if you are giving your dogs' yummy low fat low salt treats make sure to take those calories into account when the next meal come around.

## **5. Medications**

Owners unwittingly poison their dogs with human medication all of the time.

If the dog hurts himself or coughs, many owners will administer human pain medication and human cough medication.

Dogs can't metabolize human medications. There are very few drugs that can safely cross species.

Even prescription medications are not the same nor administered in the same dosage.

Would it surprise you to know that dogs with thyroid disorders take a much higher dose than an adult human with the same problem?

I remember being on an anti-depressant for my migraines while working at a vet clinic. The very same medication is also used to help stop cats from urinating in their homes. I was on less than a cat's dose.

Just because you think a medication is used on animals, call poison control or check with your vet prior to administration.

## **6. Old Medication**

This goes hand in hand with the previous discussion, but having worked at a vet I have seen owners administer old medications for what they think is the same problem which can cause deafness and/or death.

Ear medication is a perfect example.

People get used to taking their dog to the vet for chronic ear infections. And, ear infections and getting rid of them can be problematic.

So owners think, the next time their dog shakes his head, scratches his ears, or has that notorious yeasty ear smell, that they can use medication that they have left over from the last round of drops and antibiotics.

BUT if the dog's ear drum is ruptured this time, and only a vet looking down the dog's ear canal with an otoscope can see the ear drum, the medication can cause permanent deafness.

Medication that is safe for an intact ear drum will cause permanent damage to a ruptured ear drum! It just isn't worth the risk, is it?

Even things like antibiotics and pain medications go out of date.

If your dog seems to be suffering from the same medical problem just speak to your vet before you give any kind of prescription or over the counter medication.

Your vet may not even want to give your dog an exam or a full exam, but he does want to make sure your dog is not being injured by old medications.

## **7. No Training**

Dogs don't pop from the womb knowing what we humans expect.

And this may shock you, but I want a different dog than you want, than your neighbor wants, than the person down the street wants.

We all desire different levels of obedience and different attributes.

But one thing is 100% the same across the board.

People want a dog that is potty trained.

And, people want a dog with basic manners.

Manners don't always equate into "obedience" but you also can't have obedience without manners.

So do your dog a favor and commit to making sure he or she is potty trained.

Potty training isn't hard if you realize it is all about you for more on that [click here](#) and make a sincere commitment.

Potty training is just like weight loss or anything else that is difficult but worth it, if you devote the time to it, you will see results.

If you expect miracles or continue down a path where the dog is having consistent accidents then you are not going to be successful.

And, dogs that go to shelters who are not potty trained have much less of a chance of making it out alive. And, if they are adopted they run a much higher risk of being physically abused and neglected.

You can say much of the same for basic manners.

Teaching your dog not to jump on people, and to have some basic obedience skills will not only make him more enduring to you, it lessens the chance he will ever end up in a shelter or staying there and not making it out alive.

## **8. Wrong Food**

Feeding your dog the wrong thing can also be harmful.

Very low end dog food like don't have the quality nutrition that most dogs need. Very cheap, low end food is full of fillers and things that aren't good for your dog in high quantities.

I am not going to turn this into a raw food diet vs. dog food; I am only going to say be careful and do your research.

Many "do it yourself" foods lack in vitamins and nutrients that dogs need. Some also put your dog at risk for higher PH'd urine which can cause bladder and kidney stones.

Even something as simple as broccoli can change the delicate PH of your dog's urine which can cause significant health problems and require future surgery.

There are also human food like grapes that can cause renal failure, and spices like nutmeg that can cause seizures and death.

If you don't know that it is safe for your dog, don't feed it to him!

## **9. Baths**

Dogs need baths.

I know this comes as a shock to you, but dogs get stinky and the dirt and accumulated oils need to be cleaned from their fur on occasion.

I do try to keep from bathing my dogs all of the time.

When I had a dog with allergies, I had to wash him first every other day, and then about once a week for maintenance.

If you are using the right kind of shampoo and you are rinsing your dog's fur well, he can be washed often.

But, most of us don't want to have to wash our dogs too often!

Once a month is a good goal, to keep his skin clean and conditioned.

Just like washing our skin is good for us (provided we aren't using harsh cleaners) it is also helpful for your dog's skin.

Want the coolest and fastest way to bathe your dog and never have a soap buildup? Click [here](#) seriously this could change your life!

## **10. You Never Brush His Teeth**

How often do you brush your teeth?

I am hoping you are going to say twice a day or at least daily.

Now how often do you brush your dog's teeth?

If you don't say daily, then you are ignoring a huge part of your dog's health.

Tartar and bacteria can build up on teeth, then irritates the gums, and that bacteria makes its way into the blood system and to the heart.

Not brushing our dog's teeth actually shortens their lives.



**Think of old dogs that you have lost in your life.**

**If someone told you, you could have several more months or years with those dogs would you do whatever it takes to accomplish that?**

**I would!!!!**

**Brushing their teeth can add months or years to their lives!**

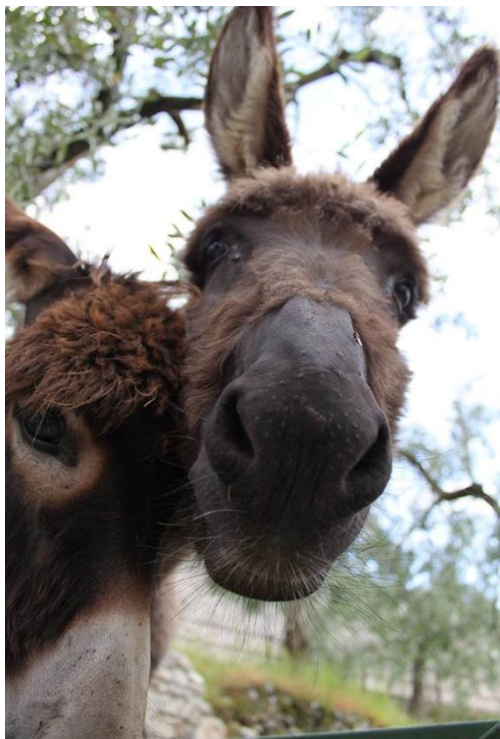
**So go to your vet and purchase some CET toothpaste (prescription toothpaste that has an enzyme to break down your dog's tartar. Human toothpaste can kill dogs) and put his toothbrush next to yours on the sink.**

**I have my dog's toothbrushes sitting next to mine and as I step out of the shower I see fuzzy faces surrounding me because they know it is "Tooth Time!".**

**To make sure they love it even more I give them a treat after they let me brush them, so for them it is like a double treat!**

**Read and share this article with your friends so that they know how to extend the lives of their dogs!**

### **Article by Roberta Roscini our Ambassador for Italy**



Dear friends and colleagues, today I would like to talk about a subject I recently became aware of: animal assisted therapy with donkeys. To organize and realize a therapy session with an animal means to create a situation where animal and human can connect and share; letting the energy from the encounter flow and getting the benefits that this connection brings. Each species has its own ethological characteristics that make it unique, so every time humans get in touch with other species they have to understand and welcome the unique communication method of that species. The goal of a pet therapy team is to help the human learn to interact properly and effectively with another animal, while respecting both species, in order to create moments of natural sharing. This way the human can receive a positive influence on his condition and the animal a nice and constructive experience.

In the world of animal assisted therapy we can find dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, donkeys, and dolphins in some occasions. Because each species has its own peculiar characteristics, and each patient has individual characteristics as well, a unique scenario can be created, managed and controlled by a team of experts that guarantees the well being of all parties involved and the success of the therapy. So, why the donkey? What are this species' characteristics that make it

unique to help humans?

Federica Aste (environmental educator and educational zooanthropology specialist) can help us understand: "AAT with a donkey is based on affectivity, communication, and relationship. These AAT are suggested for all problems related to affectivity, dealing with emotions, relationship with oneself and others. The choice of a donkey as mediator for a 'curing relationship' is based on the characteristics that make this animal a precious and trustworthy partner: simplicity and awareness; and the ability to always manage a response from the human counterpart, stimulated on different levels: emotional, intellectual, social, and psychomotorial. The donkey inspires availability and an authentic relationship, distinguished by a desire for physical contact but at the same time an extreme respect for the partner. Its temperament is caring and curious without being intrusive. The donkey's size helps to be noticed and seen by whoever comes in contact, even in the most severe cases. The donkey is compassionate and affectionate, loves cuddles and to be noticed; quite different from the horse, who easily runs away, the donkey stays still in silent awareness and its presence induces tranquility. The relationship with a donkey stimulates the child, especially in social and emotional areas, helping with emotional security, expressing emotions, and building relationships. The donkey is the key, for a child, to better understand the situations he experiences, expressing himself without fear, understanding the value of his own abilities. The donkey helps create an environment where the child doesn't feel judged. The donkey usually gives importance to



the child, because it gives the child a unique subjectivity, it reassures him, it's direct and frank in the relationship, it confirms on an emotional level. The affectivity is a key component in a child's life; through these processes the child learns to 'participate emotionally' given that the relationship with the donkey is mostly shared in the area of emotionally sharing (here and now)." [www.asinamente.it]



Federica has worked for many years with her donkeys: Amelie, Querida, Baldo, Camillo, Lisetta, Beatrice and Virginia. Since 2006 she has been an instructor and evaluator for I.T.A® (Intermountain Therapy Animals) and Pet Partner, realizing projects of interaction between humans and donkeys, where humans have the opportunity to encounter this amazing animal, both interacting directly or indirectly: watching the animal's behavior during planned scenarios, such as a mobility track or small exercises of problem solving. The well being of the animal always comes first for an AAT specialist; also because if the animal is not at ease and

free to express itself there cannot be a real interaction, hence there cannot be an effective animal assisted therapy.

The association where Federica is president, AsinaMente, is one of the many little known

realities of our country, Italy, that creates something crucial: it spreads the message of how important is for human beings to relearn to interact with other animals that live on this planet, to really become a part of this world and better our existence.



Roberta Roscini

[www.miciolandia.wordpress.com](http://www.miciolandia.wordpress.com)

**A Newspaper article about our Ambassador for Egypt, Amina Abaza**

### **S.P.A.R.E. defends animal rights in constitutional committee**

[The subject of animal rights](#) has been on the mind of many activists and animal lovers. The way animals are being treated in Egypt invites shame and embarrassment. S.P.A.R.E., one of the few animal shelters in Egypt, has been on the forefront of many attempts to save abused and malnourished animals.

The saddest factor is that many people do not see the importance of being kind to animals, and a lot of them see it as a waste of time and resources. However, this culture needs to change. Right now, interested parties are trying to change it, one case at a time.

The group's Facebook page is riddled with posts of sick or battered animals found in the streets and invitations to the kind-hearted to help with fostering or adopting the animals, and nursing them back to health.

However, the cases are too many and although there are numerous people willing to help, it is not enough. The need for a law to help furry creatures who cannot speak is great, and it would help spread awareness about the importance of being merciful and kind to animals.

Yesterday, on their Facebook page, they posted the following news:

“On 10 October, Amina Tharwat Abaza, the founder and chairman of S.P.A.R.E., was invited to partake in the discussions regarding the creation of the new Egyptian constitution in the Egyptian parliament, in the part that deals with abuse and violence towards women and children in Egypt.

Abaza then gave a speech that highlighted the situation of animals in Egypt and how paramount it is to also acknowledge and include animals as victims of abuse and violence; especially since it is a known fact that violence towards animals is the beginning, [and will eventually lead to] violence against people.

At the conclusion of her speech, contrary to the expectation of being ridiculed, the attendees were extremely impressed and the thundering applause gave a really deep sense of enthusiasm. Sameh Ashour, the president of the Lawyers’ syndicate, was very supportive.

This is a truly titanic step forward for all animals and animal activists in Egypt, as it is the first time [in Egypt] animals are considered as victims of abuse. Future meetings have been scheduled for working on and drafting new laws regarding the protection of animals, which Abaza will be attending because of her extensive knowledge and expertise regarding animal abuse.”

This is a first hopeful step towards achieving some progress in the case of animal rights.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRbSjrKHDiI>

**This article is by our Ambassador for the UK, Jackie Murphy**

**Taking** your dog out for a walk in one of the many country parks we have around the country should be an enjoyable event, where the space can be enjoyed not only by dogs and owners, but families, joggers, cyclists and walkers.

However, on entering the park, we observe a very different culture. Dogs are immediately let out of the boots of cars and allowed to run off, while the owner gets ready and picks up that all important text.

How many times do you hear the above phrase when a dog or dogs have been running towards your own dog, who has now stood still waiting for the impact?

Yes, the majority of people do have friendly dogs.



Canine etiquette is not just a fancy new phrase in dog training, it is all about being responsible and giving your dog life skills, rules and routines so that they are a well-mannered dog and a joy to take out to your local country park. We can make these areas safe for our dogs and safe for all who use the park.

**Article by our Ambassador from Kurdistan, Dr Sulaiman Tamer Saed**

**KOARP daily activities like:**

- 1- Educate and raise awareness among the public to love, respect and care for all animals by seminars, slide shows, fun quizzes and interactive games in kindergarten, schools and children centers also inform and interact with the public via social media (newspaper, magazine, T.V Radio, FB.....etc.).
- 2- Supervise, monitor and report the situation of animals to the government, including Friday market and trade of wild animals ,Slaughter houses ,Pet shops ,ZOO
- 3-Rescue abused, neglected and abandoned animals, promote adoption, treatment and vaccination.



**World Spay Day 2016 In Kurdistan Region:**

on 23 February 2016 KOARP and University of Duhok/Veterinary Medicine Faculty celebrate World Spay Day as a first time during Iraq and Kurdistan R. history .

The celebration includes these activities below:

- 1-Presentation about situation of Stray animals in Iraq by Dr.Sulaiman T. a founder of KOARP.
- 2- Condemnation the Iraqi law number 48 published in 1986 called stray dog kill control law.
- 3- Spay and neuter some dogs and cats daily in this week
- 4- Interview with media to education and awareness people to spay owner animals and government to tack care stray animals.



## **Birds of Prey in Ireland.**

Reintroduction programmes of prey species such as the Golden Eagle to Donegal, the Red Kite to Wicklow and the Sea Eagle to Kerry have been largely successful. The Buzzard population in Ireland continues to grow and is now the most common bird of prey in the Eastern counties, outnumbering the Kestrel that was once a common sight hovering over the embankments at the sides of motorways and which is now suffering a decline in numbers.

Ireland's rarest bird of prey is the Hen Harrier, which is confined mainly to the uplands of the south west counties. It is in grave danger of becoming extinct in Ireland in the next 25 years or so, if nothing is done to protect and restore upland landscapes. To save this precious bird of prey, the Golden Eagle Trust is spearheading an urgent conservation initiative on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, with GIS (Geographic Information System) playing a critical role in conservation measures.

In recent years BirdWatch Ireland (the conservation charity) has been warning that many of our hitherto common birds of prey are becoming increasingly at risk, primarily they think, because of a series of heavy and prolonged rainfall events over the past few years that has damaged food supplies. Barn owls, long-eared owls and the aforementioned kestrels and hen harriers are in crisis because of prolonged heavy rainfall in springtime. All these species are being monitored.



**A pair of Barn Owls (Photo: Shutterstock).**

Since the 1970s, the ban on the use of DDT has allowed Ireland's most impressive falcon, the Peregrine to slowly recover in numbers since the devastation of the 1950s and 1960s. There are now an estimated 260 pairs breeding in the Republic of Ireland and a further 100 pairs in Northern Ireland.

BirdWatch Ireland is still seeing a lot of persecution of birds of prey, though with continued education the number of incidence is falling.

**Brendan Kinane**

## **The Cane Toad (*Bufo marinus*)**

There are lots of dangers lurking in the watery shadows within the tropical beauty of North Queensland. An everyday factor that we all live with. On the whole numerous diverse species live their lives without unnatural provocation. But that has recently changed. Queensland dogs are seeking out Cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) for their poison to get high!



Bufotoxin in small doses creates a euphoric sensation which dogs find very pleasurable and addictive. When the dog licks the toad or holds it in their mouth the bufotoxin is absorbed through their tongue and mucous membranes. This is a dangerous game because Cane toad poison secreted from glands at the side of their head is lethal in larger amounts killing humans and other animals with utmost ease.

There is nothing like the helpless fear which seeps through every cell in your body as you watch your dog froth at the mouth while you try desperately to stay calm in a bid to save your canine companion from an untimely demise.

These 'pests' were introduced into Queensland in 1935 to eradicate the cane beetles which were destroying the sugarcane. But they did not. But, what they did do was multiply in extreme quantities killing off much of the Australian natural fauna.

### **Bufotoxin poisoning may present with:**

Death | Fever | Glazed eyes and dilated pupils | Heavy breathing | Increased salivation and frothing at the mouth | Inflamed gums and mouth | Loss of coordination and difficulty walking | Rapid heart rate | Seizure | Vomiting | Weakness

### **Action to be taken after suspected poisoning**

- Keep Calm
- Get a hose bend your dog's head towards the ground and spray the water into its mouth ensuring the dog does not swallow any of the water but that it cascades to the ground below
- Wipe the gums inside the dog's mouth from the side with a wet towel. Following each wipe rinse the towel out in fresh water ensuring no poison remains on the towel.
- Put your dog in the car and visit the veterinarian for a thorough check-up to ensure he is okay and does not need additional treatment.



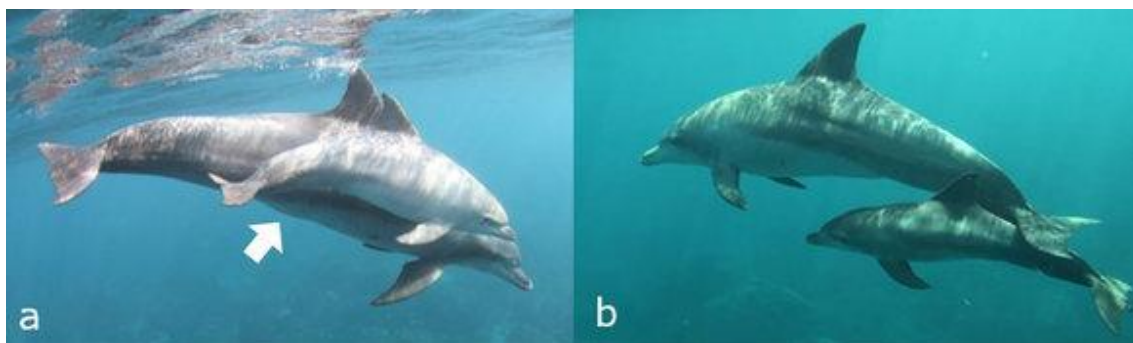
## Wild dolphin adopts a socially and genetically distant neonate

First time to observe the adoptive behaviour of the wild Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin; (*Tursiops aduncus*) near Mikura Island, Japan.

Associations and/ or interactions between infants and non-parents termed as alloparental behaviour have been reported in many mammals. Adoption, a form of alloparental behaviour usually occurs in the absence of one or both genetic parents. The role of a foster parent is to provide exclusive care for the offspring of another which have been reported in many mammals.

Adoptions are usually undertaken by females with infants or in pregnant females. It has been reported in humans and several domestic animals to induce lactation which in milk is produced in the absence of a previous pregnancy or lactation but less frequent in cetaceans. A significant fact is the foster mother nursed the calf was probably nulliparous. There has only been one report of an adult female bottlenose dolphin associating with an orphan with in the natural environment but it was the first time to observe the direct care (lactation) of an orphaned cetacean.

As the foster mother and the calf are not related, these behaviours suggest that dolphins have the capacity for empathic perspective-thinking however: it was concluded that it is necessary for additional studies to determine the extent to which they reflect social cognition.



a) The calf in the echelon position

b) The calf in the infant position (Sakai et al, 2016)

Resource Sakai, M. et al (2016) Wild Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin adopts a socially and genetically distant neonate Available from <http://www.nature.com/articles/srep23902> (Accessed 16th May 2016)

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## **Seeing Matting and Pelts from a Cats Perspective**

**By Anita Kelsey**

*Submitted by David Oehler: Ambassador for Canada*

What is matting? Matting is when a cat's fur becomes knotted and entwined. Mats can occur when the cat's undercoat sheds (moult) and gets trapped under the top layer of fur. A build up of dirty fur or oily skin, affecting the condition of the fur, can also result in matting. The fur bunches together if left uncombed. Without proper and regular grooming a cats matting can very quickly become pelted.

Most owners concentrate on the top layer of fur, when they brush their cat, leaving the undercoat without attention. This can be the start of matting. A matt or knot can sometimes be teased out with the fingers or gently combed out if held at the root. If a comb can be slid between the matt and skin then it is safe to carefully cut the matt out using the combs teeth as a barrier so as not to cut and hurt the cat. This should not be done on a cat that is moving around. *Extreme caution* and the cats wellbeing is the number one priority when removing a small knot with scissors or by teasing out with fingers.

What is a pelt? A pelt is a hardened matt or knotting that is tight against the skin. Pelts are formed when matting starts to join together, over a long period of time over various parts of the body. More loose fur, dirt, debris and even faeces, gets stuck in the already formed pelts making them larger. Pelts cannot be combed out and always need to be shaved.



The above photo's are extreme examples of cat pelts but pelting can be equally bad on the underside of the cat where they are hidden from view. Pelting can occur out of view on the arms pits, chest, tummy, under the chin and the nether regions even when the top coat appears fine.

What would a pelt feel like on a cat? Imagine our hair without being brushed or washed for months. It would start to matt very quickly and, in time, would become a clump all over. This would tighten to our scalp and become very itchy and make us irritable and hot. Imagine this clump over our bodies connecting skin from different areas as the matts become more entwined. The matting from under our arm pits has joined matting on our chest drawing the two bits of skin closer together. It feels way too tight for comfort. We are hot, we itch and sores are gathering under the matting.

Without being able to communicate our frustration and misery would we then try to rip the hair off of our bodies in desperation? Some cats do just that!!!

Would you be comfortable or would you be suffering? Cats put up with alot. They suffer in silence because: A: They are very good at hiding and showing little reaction to discomfort, illness or pain.

Cats often don't show their pain. Pain tolerance varies from one animal to the next; most cats have developed a high tolerance for pain out of evolutionary necessity. The best way to recognise feline

pain is to know your cat's routines, behaviour and personality. Often, cats show their pain through changes in behaviour, personality and routine. B: They cannot tell us what they are feeling. Cat owners often ask me: Well, how do cats maintain their coats in the wild? The majority of wild cats do not have long fur. Also, wild cats have larger tongues with large barbs on them to get out unwanted bits and pieces caught in the fur. Lions groom one another. But, if you go and see a lion's mane up close (NOT ADVISABLE ;-)) it will be matted in places!!



Cat groomers get upset when they see a pelted cat. They know how uncomfortable the cat must have been for a considerable time and yet *some* cat owners do not seem to think much of it. They ask the groomer to shave their cat and all is good again until the next time it occurs.

Why leave your cat to matt in such a way as to cause suffering? We all know how much people love their cats but common sense goes out of the window whenever it comes to grooming.

Pelted cats have to have a lion cut which is the removal of most of the hair apart from the head, mane, arms and legs. In the worst cases even the cheeks, arms and legs of a cat need to be shaved. Hair on a long haired cat, after a lion cut, takes between 4-6 months to grow to its natural length. This does not mean that a year should go by before contacting a groomer again.



Shaving is the only humane option when a cat is pelted or badly matted but it should not be seen as a quick fix until the cat's fur ends up in the same condition. It takes time, concentration and skill to shave a cat and, if the cat is aggressive, frightened or elderly, it can be a dangerous and stressful process. (Cats, especially elderly ones, can die of stress instantly on a grooming table. A groomer knows this and has to weigh up what is best. Elderly cats cannot be sedated. However, they cannot be left pelted either. For the groomer, this situation is highly stressful.)

Groomers do not want to see a cat matted again and again!! Owners should be combing their cats everyday and checking areas that matt easily such as the armpits, under the chin and around the bum area. Small amounts of combing everyday can make a big difference. A professional groomer should be used every 6-8 weeks to keep your cat's coat in good condition.

It is a cost to be factored in when getting a cat with a high maintenance coat. Think of this cost like we do when getting our hair tidied or cut every few months. If a cat has had a lion cut the groomer can be called in to maintain the fur once it has grown to a length that can be combed. In the meantime the remaining fur still needs attention.

If you own a cat whose fur is high maintenance why not ask a groomer for a lesson in how to comb your cat in between regular visits or to check your grooming tools. A joint effort between cat owner and professional groomer will ensure that matting and pelts are a thing of the past. We all want happy cats.

### **Article by Beth Babbins, Ambassador for South Africa**

We are fortunate in having the world renowned Kruger National Park only a few hours drive from where we live. The small tract of land that was the forerunner to the Park as we know it today was originally proclaimed in 1898. Today this nature conservancy cover in excess of 20,000km<sup>2</sup> and is home to more than 500 bird species, in addition to crocodiles, monitor lizards and fish as well as 54 species of snakes can be found. The Park can be divided into 17 ecological zones having approximately 2000 plant species and probably most importantly is home to a wide range of primates, carnivores and herbivores.



Ever since the establishment of this conservancy man has attempted to interfere with and alter nature and natural developments based on ideas and concepts or philosophies relevant at that time. One of the first human interventions was the shooting of large numbers of lions to minimise their effect on the growth of the herds of buck. The resultant increase in the number of grazers lead to a reduction of the grasslands and it was only then realised that the natural process of carnivores regulating the numbers of their natural prey was the most practical.

For a number of reasons the Park was fenced – the animals had to be kept away from the commercial farming activities on its western and southern borders and from Mozambique and Zimbabwe, the eastern and northern neighbours. The fencing, whilst serving one purpose also prevented the animals from following their age old migration routes and this created its own problems – the eastern boundary has been opened but the increase in poaching is now a problem.

As the popularity of the park continued to grow, now catering for well in excess of a million visitors annually so more focus was placed on tourism – a new policy based on the drilling of boreholes, the erection of windmills and waterholes resulted. Many of these waterholes were placed at strategic points for visitors to have better opportunities of viewing the game. It took some time and research to realise that animals had now been moved, through the provision of water, to areas that they had not frequented before, or in the large numbers now found, and that the natural habitat was now unable to sustain them. The number of carnivores had also increased and nature was again out of balance. To the disappointment of many nature lovers the majority of these manmade facilities have

recently been closed down in the hope that the pattern would be reversed and the numbers and ratios of prey to predator would return.

This year we are experiencing the worst drought for many years and this has had a major impact on



the Park. Large dams are no more than parched hollows in the landscape, in others a muddy pool remains and the fish can be seen writhing in the little water still available. Carnivores are again feasting on the easy prey and the large mammals are experiencing the worst effects. The most affected animal is in all probability the hippopotamus – this great big lumbering creature is being deprived in two ways – food resources – grasslands are minimal and the number of dams and rivers that provide sufficient water for them to submerge their bodies are

becoming limited. Hippos have extremely sensitive skin and suffer badly from sunburn and this is prevented is through submerging themselves in water. Pools that may previously accommodated have six are now being churned up by twenty or more – survival of the fittest will prevail.

During similar conditions in the late 1950's about 500 hippo carcasses were counted in an area between two of the camps in the lower northern region of the park. What was thought to be total devastation of the specie in this area took less than 10 years to reverse itself and the count then indicated that they had again reached the maximum carrying capacity of the given resources – this would result in a natural slowing of reproduction and the maintaining of numbers.

Nature without human intervention seems to be able to create and maintain a balance – in spite of all the knowledge and scientific research over many years in this regard, we still seem to get it wrong – the same I would believe is the manner in which many interact with domestic animals, the operation of some rescue schemes and the rehoming of rescued animals. Little cognisance seems to be taken of natural behaviour.

**Article by our Ambassador for Nepal, Khageshwaar Sharma**

### **Pashupatinath Project**

In association with other NGO's and the Pashupatinath Development Trust (PADT) a clinic was held at this world famous temple complex.

Almost all of the female dogs were fertile, several had transmissible venereal tumours, and 47% had Pyometra - probably as a result of injections of the human contraceptive, Depo Provera.

A neutering and treatment clinic was arranged from 20-24 February 2016.

Contributing organisations include NAWRC, CDW, AN, SPCA, STAN, Advance Pet Clinic and HART.

The neutering camp was held in the grounds of the Old People's Home.

Dogs requiring more intensive treatment are currently being nursed in the kennels of CDW and Paradise Boarding Kennels and will be returned to their areas when healthy.

Over the period of 5 days, 142 dogs (136 female and 6 male) and one cat were sterilised, vaccinated against rabies, treated for any existing health problems and returned to their areas.

The objective of the camp was to improve the lives of the free roaming dogs within the complex of Pashupatinath, the Lord of Animals.

The major Hindu festival, Mahashivaratri, falls on 7th of March. During this festival, thousands of pilgrims (who may not all be animal lovers) come to pay homage to Lord Pashupatinath and it was important that the relief work was done in advance of the influx of visitors. Unhealthy dogs are easy targets for mistreatment.

Longer term aims are to maintain a healthy stable dog population with the assistance of the PADT and to demonstrate the huge value of collaborative working.

The impact of the program carried out will be evaluated in May so that further work can be planned with the aim of ensuring that animals and pilgrims visiting the temple can enjoy a harmonious existence within the complex of Pashupatinath.

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## **News from Pokhara**

The work in the new ward of Lamchaur was continued in early February.

Once again there are fewer dogs than expected with many owners preferring that their animals are not neutered.

Attacks by leopards are greatly feared in this area and the owners believe their dogs will offer better guarding if left fertile. Note the nail-studded collar fitted for the protection of the dog shown here.

The terrain and attitudes are more rural than urban and it appears that this area is losing some of its people as they move into city centres.