

THE KENNEL CORNER

World's ugliest dogs



Pabst shows off his winning underbite



Dawn Goehring of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, reacts with her dog Miss Millie, a Chinese Crested



Miss Millie won the Ugliest in the pedigree class



If only there had been an ugly names category: Spam-O-Rama, a Chinese Crested, didn't win a prize for his face



Lydon Oliver plays with two Chinese Crested dogs © The Telegraph Group London 2009

Contributions to this page could be sent to <featureseditor@unl.upali.lk> or Features editor, *The Island*, Upali Newspapers Ltd. 223, Bloemendhal Rd, Colombo 13. Readers may also send photographs of families with their canine friends. 011-2497500

In this question-answer model article, the writer answers some of the questions the general public frequently pose to animal-welfare workers about their work and their views concerning the stray dog population.

by S. Devasirvadham

(Continued from last week)

Q. How should a community take care of stray dogs in the area?

A. Collective responsibility combined with a humane approach is our answer. Sometimes, a mangy unvaccinated dog would have been living in the locality for months with the residents ignoring it totally; but the minute someone makes an effort to help it, pressure is exerted on that single individual by them to do something about the "dog" immediately! According to a canine-rights activist, "It happens every time." Please help - a solution could then be found soon.

Q. Please elaborate on this word "help" that you have used: What would you suggest, in your capacity as a lay person?

A. It is not advisable to take risks; however a lot could be done. In addition to cooperating with canine-welfare workers to get veterinary help in an emergency, one could ease the suffering of a dog directly by making use of the available professional or animal welfare services. In Colombo, The Animal Welfare Protection Association (AWPA) could be called to attend to an injured animal.

Perhaps a contribution could be made to the Association itself or to the professional unit that is sent by them. SOFA - Save Our Friends Association - performs a similar service in Kandy. In the case of a sick or unvaccinated animal in the area, it is best to seek the help or advice of veterinarians or work in collaboration with them to do the needful. In a small community, collective monetary contribution "willingly" made to a trusted person would go a long way in an emergency as sometimes without it very little can be done.

Q. Do you think that religious beliefs have helped in reducing the problem of cruelty to animals in our country?

A. Only to a certain extent, we are sad to say. Most of the religions of the world, to a greater or lesser extent, teach people to be kind to animals. In some, as in Buddhism, it is a major concept of the doctrine, as is the importance of being charitable. Both contribute to make up the whole. Then how is it considered sufficient, by some, to adopt the latter and disregard the former? In a country such as ours, where the religion of the majority teaches the concept of kindness towards all forms of life, does it make any

sense that cruelty to animals or indifference to their suffering is so prevalent? In this regard, the inhumane methods that are used in the slaughter of cattle is also a matter that should be taken up for discussion and remedy, among other such issues. Why is there so much lethargy in regard to this issue? To quote a devout Buddhist, "Saving cows here and there on special Poya days is not

It's a unique relationship

Helping faithful animals in a tangible way



sufficient."

Q. What practical steps, do you think, could be taken by the government or philanthropic organizations to educate the public and to help the cause of canine welfare?

A. Suggestions:

- * Reintroducing "Moral Science" in schools. This subject was taught in the 1960s in some. The syllabus should include the component "Kindness to Animals" among others, to inculcate this concept in the minds of the young at a very early age. A practical section too is necessary to teach how theory could be put into practice.

- * Encouraging religious institutions such as temples, churches and Sunday schools to play a major role in this regard.

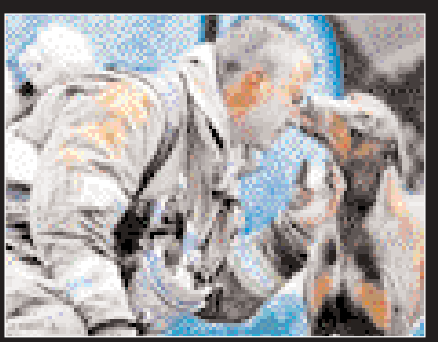
- * Creating awareness among the public on issues relevant to the cause through the media, especially the Electronic Media.

- * Enlisting the support of vernacular newspapers: Sinhala and Tamil newspapers should publish a greater number of articles than they do at present, or even translations, on issues relevant to the cause. This could turn out to be a power-

ful means of taking the message far and wide among the readers who cannot read English newspapers.

* Discussing the subject of sterilization of dogs using the media to dispel any false notions regarding it. The public should be "enlightened" that if anything is a sin, it is not the practice of sterilization of animals carried out for humane reasons, but that of taking newborn puppies from their mothers depriving them of their sole nutrition - their mother's milk - to leave them on the road to die of starvation, injury, or harm from preda-

The Kiss



She is pregnant. He just saved her from a fire in her house, rescuing her by carrying her out of the house into her front yard, while he continued to fight the fire.

When he finally got done putting the fire out, he sat down to catch his breath and rest.

A photographer from the Charlotte, North Carolina newspaper, noticed her in the distance looking at the fireman.

He saw her walking straight toward the fireman and wondered what she was going to do.

As he raised his camera, she came up to the tired man who had saved her life and the lives of her babies and kissed him just as the photographer snapped this photograph.

You'll notice that she didn't care if he was dirty, she didn't care if he smelled like burnt wood, she only knew this man saved her life and she thanked him from her heart the best way she could.

The Kiss. And people say animals are dumb

This was sent by Dharshini Bandara

Today's Special

Classic Canine Cookies

4 Cups whole wheat flour
1/4 Cup cornmeal
1/4 Cup cooked rice
1 egg
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
Juice from a small orange
1 2/3 Cups water

Mix all ingredients together well. Turn out into a lightly floured surface and knead. Roll out dough to about 1/8 inch thickness and cut out desired shapes...doggy bones, paws, balls, etc...have fun!



We need a kind home

Contact: Sharon Perera 2880157 or 2880000 Ext 2328

