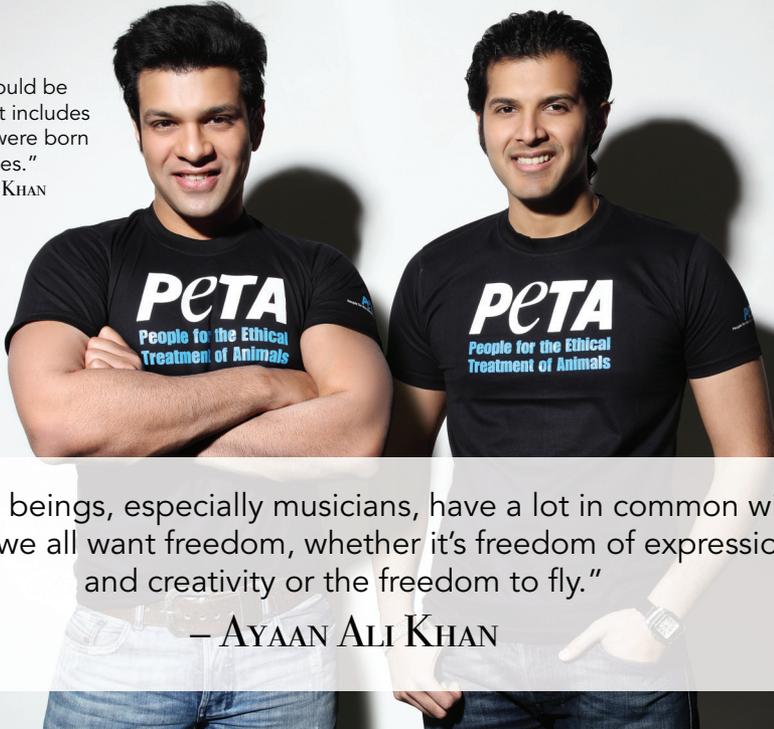


# Caged Birds Have Nothing to Sing About

"Nobody should be caged, and that includes the birds who were born for the skies."  
– AMAAN ALI KHAN



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"Human beings, especially musicians, have a lot in common with birds – we all want freedom, whether it's freedom of expression and creativity or the freedom to fly."

– AYAAN ALI KHAN



"Birds are born to fly great distances. Keeping them jailed is a cruel thing to do and possibly the worst form of punishment anyone can think of for a bird."

– JOHN ABRAHAM

"[O]nce you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return."

– LEONARDO DA VINCI



# Let Birds Fly Free

In nature, birds live in flocks and communicate using hundreds of different calls, including hushed chatter and whispers that we cannot even hear. They enjoy taking baths, playing, dancing, building nests with their mates and nurturing their young.



When captured and confined to cages, these same fun-loving birds become depressed and withdrawn. They often over-preen themselves to the point of mutilation. Some people clip birds' wings so that they can't fly, yet flying is as natural and important to birds as walking is to us.

## Criminal Captivity

Under The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the definition of "hunting" includes the following: "(a) capturing, killing, poisoning, snaring, and trapping any wild animal and every attempt to do so". It is illegal to hunt (capture) any birds or other animals protected under this act and listed in Schedule I, II, III and IV. And the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora restricts the trade of foreign birds. In addition, Section 11 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, says it is illegal if anyone "keeps or confines any animal in any cage or other receptacle which does not measure sufficiently in height, length and breadth to permit the animal a reasonable opportunity for movement". Yet hundreds of species of birds are brazenly sold in markets and kept in cages nationwide.



## A Deadly Toll

Trappers use a variety of cruel methods to catch birds, including snaring them in nets, luring them with a sticky paste that causes them to get stuck and stealing the young ones out of nests, all of which can cause them serious injuries as they try desperately to escape.

The captured birds are then crammed into boxes and transported across vast distances, arriving at their destination wounded, terrified, starving – and sometimes even dead.

## Let Birds Be Free

The best way to stop this cruel trade is to refrain from buying birds and ask others to do the same. If you are ready to share your life with an animal companion, go to an animal shelter and adopt a dog or a cat.

Caged birds can be rehabilitated. If you know of any, ask the person responsible for them to do the right thing and to contact wildlife authorities or an animal-protection organisation for help with freeing them. If you believe a bird is being sold or kept illegally, notify your local government forest department and an animal-protection organisation.

**For more information, contact PETA India at [Info@petaindia.org](mailto:Info@petaindia.org).**