



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

(Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)
(पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) Dr. R. M. KHARB, AVSM
Chairman

25th July 2012

Re: Compassionate Citizen, PETA India's Humane Education Programme

As chairperson of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) a statutory and advisory body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, I strongly recommend the Humane Education Programme developed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India called **Compassionate Citizen** for inclusion in the curricula of all schools in our country for children of 8 to 12 years of age.

Compassionate Citizen has been designed to help the students to understand and appreciate the animals. It can be used in languages, arts, science, social studies, environmental or value education curricula. Most children naturally feel concern and affection for animals but learn cruelty from society as they grow and often lose sight of their compassion. A lack of respect for animal life can translate into insensitivity and cruelty towards people too. It is now well documented by psychologists, sociologists and people in law enforcement that violence against animals by children is often an early warning sign of future acts of violence toward humans. Through humane education, PETA aims to ensure a future in which animals, the environment they live in and people are treated with respect and kindness.

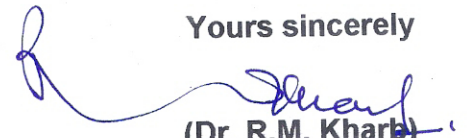
Humane education is especially vital for the children of today as it helps to set the foundation for addressing the problems of tomorrow. Today's children are growing up in a world in which several species of animals are going extinct at a rapid rate and they are also being abused to fulfil human greed. To address these and other modern day crises such as climate change, children must develop an understanding and respect for animal life.

"Compassionate Citizen" offers teachers tools and lesson plans designed to teach children to view animals as sentient beings. The programme has already been voluntarily used successfully in nearly 10,000 private and government schools reaching 2 million children across India. *The more schools that include Compassionate Citizen as a part of their curriculum, the more positive impact of the programme will be seen in the society.*

Our article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India makes it the fundamental duty of every Indian citizen to protect the natural environment and to have compassion for all living creatures.

I therefore do hope that education authorities will take necessary steps to include Compassionate Citizen as a part of the official curricula of schools across the nation for sensitising children to treat all animals with respect and kindness.

Yours sincerely


(Dr. R.M. Kharb)
Maj. Gen. (Retd.), AVSM
Chairman, AWBI