

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahatma Gandhi

2 February 2016

Mr. Lal Wijenaikē

Chairman, Public Representations Committee on Constitutional Reforms

Dear Mr. Wijenaikē

KACPAW Seeks Constitutional Protection for All Animals in Sri Lanka

National Constitutions are a valuable instrument for protecting animals, providing strong legal clout to the existing Animal Welfare Bills and Ordinances. The principle of welfare balance in the area of animal protection when in conflict with fundamental laws, such as scientific and educational freedom, artistic or religious freedom could only function when animal protection has a **constitutional ranking**.

In Sri Lanka, the majority start the day by chanting *May all living beings be well*, but thereafter they indulge in cruel practices causing hideous suffering to animals in the name of culture, religion, conservation, farming and dairy industry, food (meat, fish, eggs) and milk, science and education, entertainment, and pet industry to name a few.

None of these cruel practices against animals can be combated legally for lack of **Constitutional Protection for animals**.

Therefore, I am writing on behalf of KACPAW (Kandy Association for Community Protection through Animal Welfare) to request that **CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION FOR ALL ANIMALS** be incorporated in the National Constitution of Sri Lanka placing **ANIMAL WELFARE** on the same footing as other key principles, as follows:

- A requirement that the government and the citizens at all times to consider animals with respect, and treat them with compassion.
- A requirement that the government to develop laws and enforcement structures so as to afford animals the highest level of protection.
- A requirement that the government develop and support humane education programs to encourage respect and compassion for people, animals and the environment, and recognition of the interdependence of all living things.

Please see Annex 1 for further elaboration on the need for CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION for animals in the National Constitution of Sri Lanka and its justification.

Annex 2 has some pictures sufficient to prove how unprotected our animals are and the abject cruelty associated with these practices.

Without Constitutional Protection neither the State nor the citizens can take action against such barbarities, despite the existence of various bills and ordinances on animal welfare.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Signed.

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