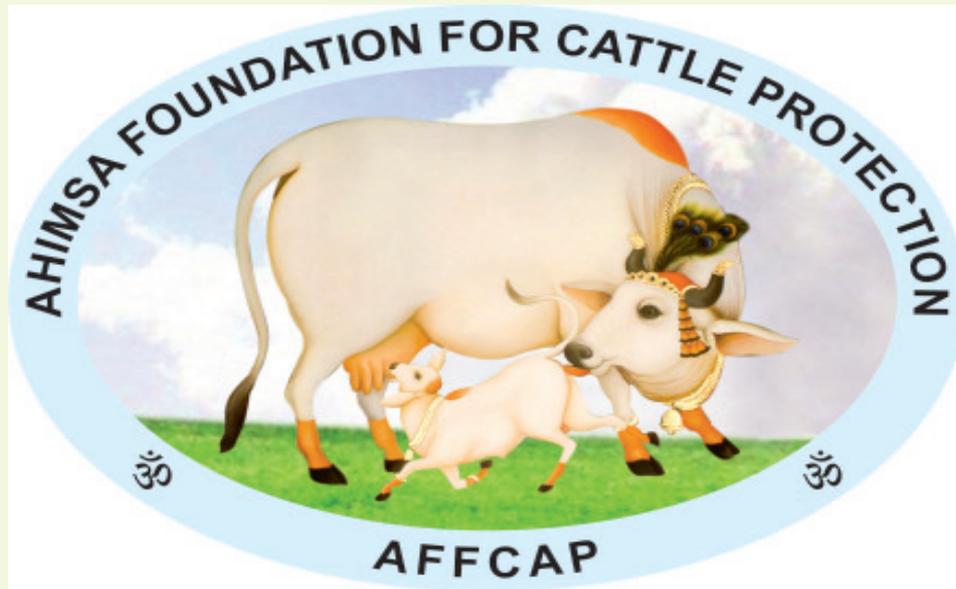


**THE AHIMSA FOUNDATION FOR CATTLE PROTECTION**  
**NO SLAUGHTER**

***February-March 2014 Newsletter***



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# The Ahimsa Foundation for Cattle Protection



**NO SLAUGHTER**

## WHAT DOES AFFCAP DO?

AFFCAP has developed in reaction to some goshallas falling short in their cow protection responsibilities. Some have gone so far as to allow animals to meet their end on a killing floor, or to pass away neglected on the street. India is the world's largest exporter of meat and ranks first in world leather production. As such, AFFCAP's purpose is to ensure that no 'protected' cows, bulls, oxen or calves, from a cow protection goshalla, will meet such a horrific end.

As a result, AFFCAP's inspection and certification program is designed to provide standardization of goshalla programs throughout India -- with a goal of providing assurance to the public-at-large -- that the inspected goshallas are indeed dedicated to the animals' lifetime protection.

The process of AFFCAP certification is quite simple.

1. Filling out a *Membership Registration Form*: — This is a simple form requesting contact information and an acknowledgement of having read the *Cattle Protection Standards* and the *AFFCAP Rules and Regulations*.
  - a. The *Cattle Protection Standards* details both acceptable and non-acceptable practices regarding care of the animals.
  - b. The *Rules and Regulations* explain the responsibilities and privileges of AFFCAP membership.

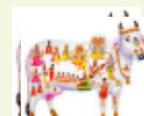
Upon completion, a Farm Identity code is assigned by AFFCAP for each goshalla.

2. Filling out the *Application for Animal Registration*: — This is a short form which provides birth, name and history details for each animal.

One of AFFCAP's primary responsibilities is to keep track of each animal throughout its life, and the *Application for Animal Registration* provides crucial information enabling us to accomplish the task. Upon registration, an Animal Identification Number is assigned which follows the animal throughout its life. If sold or transferred to another goshalla, a new number is to be given reflecting the new owner's Farm ID and animal number.

The *Application for Animal Registration* is undertaken only once and need not be repeated each year at renewal.

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# AFFCAP TO VERIFY ISKCON GOSHALAS



## International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Founder Acharya : His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Dear Maharajas and Prabhus,

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

We would like to bring to your kind attention that at the recent meeting of the ISKCON India Advisory Council (IIAC) it was decided that all ISKCON centers having any number of cows, bulls or calves must register their centre and each individual animal with the Ahimsa Foundation for Cattle Protection (AFFCAP).

AFFCAP is a body that regulates goshalas and keeps a database on every animal. The trustees are Basu Ghosh Das, Revati Raman Das, Pancaratna Das, Durga Singh, Rajesh Lashkery, and Peeyush Gupta. The Executive Secretary is Vyapaka Das.

The purpose of ISKCON's affiliation with AFFCAP is to ensure that no animals are going missing from any ISKCON farm or temple. In that way we ensure that ISKCON is not responsible for the slaughter of any animals. **Once you join AFFCAP you cannot give away animals or sell animals to a non-AFFCAP farm or entity.** You must keep all the animals you breed or transfer them to an AFFCAP farm only. Every birth and death must be registered. In this way we know exactly how many animals there are in ISKCON and where they are at any given time. We cannot continue to exploit mother cow by taking her milk and selling her young.

AFFCAP will do an inspection of each individual farm at least once a year to check that the animals recorded are in fact maintained for the satisfaction of your donors.

You may go online to the AFFCAP website ([affcap.org](http://affcap.org)) and read the rules and regulations and the Cattle Protection Standards. You will find the Farm Registration form and the Individual Animal Registration form there. There is a Power Point presentation you may like to go through.

So far ISKCON Jaipur, ISKCON Kanpur, ISKCON Vrindavana, Sheetala Mata Goshala, Shree Vrindavana Goshala Jaipur, Durga Singh Goshala Madawa, and Shree Gopal have been registered with the herd ear tagged and inspections complete. ISKCON Tirupati, ISKCON Baroda and ISKCON Mayapur are under process.

There are some minimal yearly charges for registration, ear tags and inspection which we know you will understand, as this is for the benefit for the cows. It is up to ISKCON to set the standard for cow protection, and therefore we are seeking your cooperation.

If you have any queries you may contact Vyapaka Prabhu (Executive Secretary) from the website or you can contact me directly on [pancaratnadas@gmail.com](mailto:pancaratnadas@gmail.com)

Please do see the need of the hour as it is one of the desires of Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna that the cows are properly protected and maintained. We look forward to your quick response. Our team of dedicated devotees is waiting to serve you.

Your servant,  
*Pancaratra Das*  
Managing Trustee  
AFFCAP

Continued from page 3

3. In order to identify each animal, it is required that a tag is attached to the ear. This tag contains the AFFCAP name, Farm ID letters and animal ID number.
4. Inspector Visit: — Each goshalla is visited by an AFFCAP Inspector in order to validate the information provided on the *Inspection Application*. He is the “Eyes and Ears” of the Certification Committee.

Upon completion, the Inspector writes a report which is sent to the AFFCAP Certification Committee who will decide to issue the Certificate of Compliance, or not.

5. Issuance of Certificate of Compliance: — Upon reviewing the Inspector’s report and Inspection Application, the Committee decides to issue a Certificate of Compliance, if the goshalla has met the minimum AFFCAP requirements.

## PICTURE PERFECT



A chef hard at work preparing a dish for the protected cows. This goshalla is comprised of 100 animals.



A young bull calf takes his first steps. A great challenge in cow protection is to find employment for the bulls and oxen. Their traditional role is ploughing and transport; however, fewer and fewer oxen are being engaged leaving them prone to abandonment.



Riddh Karan, the capable *gwalla* at Iskcon Jaipur, presents one of his young calves during the 2013 Goverdahn Puja celebration. This herd is comprised of Tharparka cows, a traditional Rajasthani breed, proficient for both milk and draught.

## THE FIRST AHMISA-CERTIFIED GOSHALA

The Ahimsa Foundation for Cattle Protection would like to welcome the Iskcon Surabhi Kunj Goshala and Research Center of Jaipur, Rj as the first entry into the AFFCAP family.

AFFCAP is the brainchild of Pancaratna dasa, the Temple President of Iskcon Jaipur, and Managing Trustee of the Ahimsa Foundation. After observing differing degrees of cow care throughout his travels, it became obvious that a common and verifiable standard was required. Subsequently, AFFCAP came into being.

Its *Cattle Protection Standards* defines acceptable *ahimsa* practices for goshalas throughout India and the world. Unfortunately, some goshalas do not provide adequate care and protection to their animals, with some being sacrificed to the street or sold to a slaughterhouse. This type of practice is prohibited with AFFCAP-certified goshalas.

Therefore, AFFCAP-certification makes it easy to determine if a goshala is properly protecting the cows, bulls and oxen for life, while providing an assurance to donors that their hard-earned money is being well-spent.

The Iskcon Surabhi Kunj Goshala and Research Center is located adjacent to the AFFCAP office. As a result, the animals are frequently observed and to date has exhibited a high standard of care to their purebred Tharparkar herd.



*Iskcon Jaipur Surabhi Kunj's protected herd getting exercise outside of the goshala quarters*

*The beauty and gentleness of the cow is attractive to those of all ages*



*Chewing one's cud is hard work.*

*His first of many Govardhan Puja celebrations*



# INDIA LEADS THE WORLD ...IN MEAT EXPORT



## Beef exports up 44% in 4 years, India is top seller

**The Times of India** Pratiksha Ramkumar, TNN Apr 1, 2013 © 2014 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved

CHENNAI: The Centre's Pink Revolution to promote meat production and export has led to a 44% increase in meat consumption and export in four years, but it has failed to regulate the industry.

According to data compiled by the animal husbandry departments of all states, meat from registered slaughterhouses increased from 5.57 lakh tonnes in 2008 to 8.05 lakh tonnes in 2011. Export earnings from bovine (beef and cattle) meat expected to touch Rs 18,000 crore in 2012-2013. India became the world's top exporter of beef in 2012.

Uttar Pradesh is the top buffalo meat-producing state with 3 lakh tonnes in 2011. At least 70% of the buffalo meat is exported. "Our meat is lean and cheaper. We supply halal meat, which is preferred in Gulf countries," said Surendra Kumar Ranjan, director of Uttar Pradesh-based Hind Agro Industries.

Though meat meeting international standards reaches markets in the Europe, the Gulf and South-East Asia, most of the meat sold in India is substandard. The best quality meat is sent abroad while B-grade meat reaches the domestic market.

Further, activists say the way animals are transported and slaughtered is cruel and far from international standards. "There is rampant abuse of animals in transport and slaughter of meat whether for domestic consumption or export," said Arpan Sharma, CEO of Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations.

### Meat sales up, hygiene drops

The amount of beef consumed and exported from the country has gone up 44% in the last four years, according to data from the Union animal husbandry department. However, animal abuse while transporting and slaughtering is rampant, say activists.

According to data compiled by the animal husbandry departments of all states, the meat produced in registered slaughterhouses has increased from 5.57 lakh tonnes in 2008 to 8.05 lakh tonnes in 2011. At least 70% of the buffalo meat is exported. Uttar Pradesh is the top buffalo meat-producing state with 3 lakh tonnes in 2011. According to the US Department of Agriculture, India became the largest exporter of beef edging out Australia and New Zealand in May 2012.

Bovine (buffalo and cow) meat from India is popular in South-East Asian and Gulf countries, said Surendra Kumar Ranjan, director of Uttar Pradesh-based Hind Agro Industries. "Our meat is lean and cheaper. We supply halal meat, which is preferred in Gulf countries," he said.

Animal activists, however, kill this rosy picture. "There is rampant abuse of animals during transport and slaughter whether the meat is for domestic consumption or export," said Arpan Sharma, CEO of Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations.

Processed meat exports are expected to earn close to 18,000 crore in 2012-13. The increase is attributed to the Centre's Pink Revolution to promote meat production and export with modernized abattoirs and storage facilities. The food processing



ministry had announced subsidies of 15 crore to modernize abattoirs. The buffaloes killed went up from 49.46 lakh in 2008 to 69.6 lakh in 2011.

There are 38 integrated abattoirs in the country which slaughter for export. Agricultural and Processed Food Exports Development Authority (Apeda) inspects them and renews licenses. "The BIS team does checks a few times a year," said Ranjan.

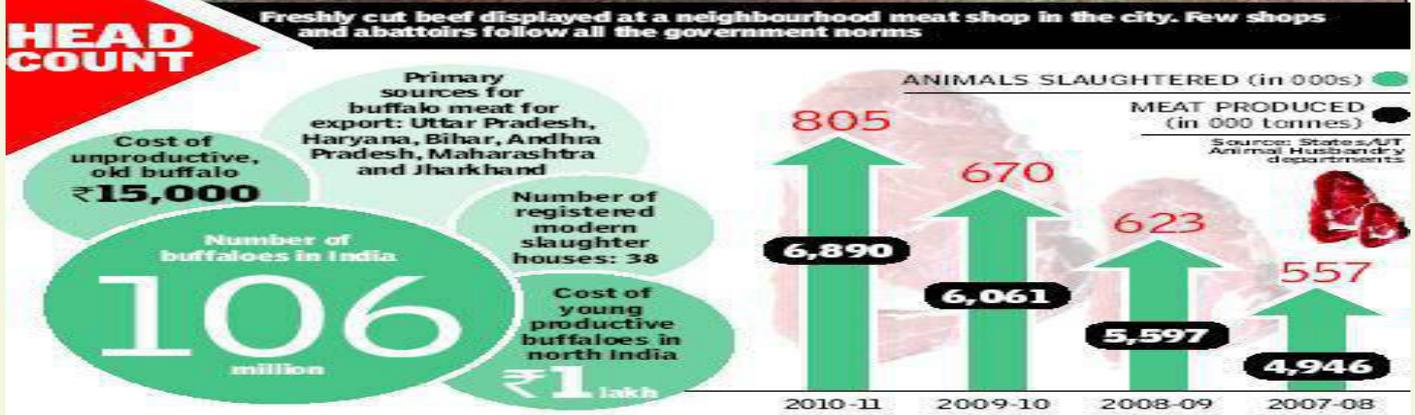
The government's stringent rules on quality of meat have failed to extend to prevention of cruelty to animals. "Animals are overloaded in vehicles and transported without food and water," said Sharma. "None of the meat exporters pay attention to the condition of animals," he said. Most police officers let vehicles through without fining them for overloading as per the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The international practice of stunning an animal before slaughter is not followed in India, since Gulf countries want only halal cut meat. "Gulf countries specify that the animal should not be stunned. We stun animals supplied to countries that don't insist on halal meat," said Ranjan.

Stunning animals is compulsory in Europe and Australia. "There are norms for veterinary care, feeding and watering during transport," said Sharma.



Freshly cut beef displayed at a neighbourhood meat shop in the city. Few shops and abattoirs follow all the government norms



WE ENSURE THAT ANIMALS ARE GIVEN TWO SQ.M OF SPACE AND ARE FED DURING TRANSPORT. AFTER THEY REACH, THEY ARE GIVEN FODDER, WATER AND REST BEFORE SLAUGHTER

Surendra Kumar Ranjan | DIRECTOR, HIND AGRO, UP



MOST BEEF EXPORTERS DO NOT MONITOR THE CONDITION BUFFALOES ARE TRANSPORTED IN. MOST ABATTOIRS DO NOT HAVE STUNNING EQUIPMENT

Arpan Sharma | CEO, FEDERATION OF INDIAN ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS

# NOTES FROM THE INSPECTION TRAIL

On a visit to the Bhaktivedanta Swami Goshalla located in Vrindavan, UP — the holy appearance place of the Supreme Cowherd, Lord Sri Krishna — we observed some of the differences, both good and challenging, confronting cowherds.

We were there in our role as an AFFCAP Inspector to have a look at the care offered to the herd.



They were just the second ISKCON goshala inspected and a large facility responsible for over 300 animals.

The weekend started well with a comprehensive visit including the pleasure of distributing laddus to the cows.

The cows definitely knew what to do as they were well-experienced in receiving treats. The goshala head and the manager, Sanak Sanatana and ShobKrishna, had a good stock of sweets on hand, so there was no holding back. I encourage one-and-all, on your next visit to Vrindavan, to not miss the experience.

The inspection began on a good note. The cows were healthy with no serious problems detected. It is a large goshala and was a challenge to account for all the animals, but finally, with a little perseverance, the job was accomplished.

While visiting the oxen barn, one old fellow was seen lying on the ground — obviously not well. A special arrangement had been made to feed and water him, but being too weak, he was being outcompeted for his feed.



ShobKrishna gathered the gwallas and had him brought to a fenced-in area where special arrangements were made for his comfort. There was no possibility of losing his feed as he was the sole occupant, other than a new-born calf. As a special treat, we snuck over and grabbed a large armful of fresh green grass and he relished every bite.

Unfortunately, this was to be his final meal. On our return the next day, the pen was empty and we were informed that he had breathed his last. Fortunately, to pass away in Vrindavan — after offering such valuable service to the Mandir and Brijabasis— an auspicious future was

guaranteed.

But it highlighted the challenges of cow protection in that if one takes birth, death is certain. Though we had known him for such a short time, it was sad to see him gone. At least, we had the opportunity to offer a little comfort, a good scratch and the Holy Name.

As we left, we were impressed by the care and concern of the cowherds.

Based upon our interview and viewing of the facility, cow conditioning, milking and feeding procedures, the Bhaktivedanta Swami Goshala was Ahimsa-certified and deserves your support.

# BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI GOHSALA



## AHIMSA FOUNDATION FOR CATTLE PROTECTION

### Patronship Program

<http://www.affcap.org/BecomeAPatron.aspx>

AFFCAP's certification involves inspecting goshalas throughout India, ear-tagging the animals and tracking them in a database. In this way it is determined if the animals are being properly cared for and protected throughout their lives.

When we began our work, the goshalas were charged a membership fee plus a registration charge per animal. However, experience revealed that the added financial burden was difficult to bear for many goshalas.

Since it is our desire to encourage and assist the protection of as many animals as possible, animal registration charges have been stopped. This significantly reduces the cost of certification. However, the certification costs are already at a minimum and need be subsidized if AFFCAP's work is to be continued. This is the rationale behind AFFCAP's Patronship Program; so please follow the link above and help shoulder some of the costs of cow protection. This will ensure the cows receive proper care and your life will certainly be better for it.

**PLEASE HELP US HELP THE COWS**