

GO GREEN

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE



FEBRUARY-MARCH UPDATE



The Sai Animal welfare Team supporting Animal Spirit, Austria

February-March Updates 2021 Animal Care

Dear Go Green Champions and Eco-Explorers,

This month, we take a closer look at good animal welfare and compassion towards all creatures. From the tiniest to the largest, all animals are essential to the ecosystem. Mother Nature is a perfect habitat that has been designed for all kinds of species, where all animals and plants coexist and give balance to each other. As human beings we benefit from their wondrous selfless service to this planet!

Unfortunately, the human population has done a lot of damage to the biosphere! Even plants offer a sugary reward to insects in return for their pollination services. It is time for us to start thinking about how to reward other creatures for their life-enriching service. When we look after and love an animal, we uplift the whole creation.

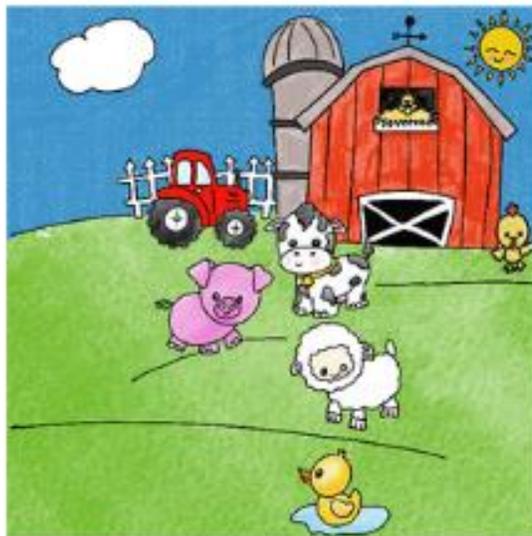
The Path to Dedicated Living



“Compassion towards all beings is the highest spiritual discipline. Man is the crown of Creation; he is the highest among living beings. Therefore, he bears a great responsibility. He has to love other living beings, serve them and save them, for they are his kith and kin, as they too have the Divine Principle as their core. But man is proving himself worse than animals due to self-centeredness, conceit, envy and anger.”

- Sathya Sai

Love and Compassion for Farm Animals, Austria



The SSSIO of Austria initiated an animal welfare service in 2018 and presently supports three animal shelters of the Austrian association “[ANIMAL SPIRIT](#)”. This non-profit association was founded in May 2002 by veterinarian Dr. Franz-Joseph Plank to spread the importance of animal welfare and to help hard-pressed animals in need, primarily ‘farm’ animals. By their support and service, Sai animal lovers nurture in themselves important feelings of connection and stewardship.

Sick, old, and abandoned animals are lovingly cared for and raised according to the highest standards of well-being - each stable leads into the open air. These love-thirsty animals now approach their guests to express their trust.



The Sai animal lovers took over some duties from the Animal Spirit team to reduce their many daily tasks. They bring wood from the forest to keep for the winter, they help to clear a nettle field, a chicken fence from weeds, and muck out the ducks and chicken coops. Additionally, they carry out concrete and painting works.



These volunteers take great joy in the physically demanding work, which brings a great surge in strength and capacity to work. They always leave the animal shelter grateful and deeply satisfied.

The Transformation of Man Through the Good Qualities in Animals



Felix (Donkey)



Antonia (Donkey - Jenny on the Right)

“The quality of patience to be found in a donkey is not found even in man. Whatever burdens may be heaped on its back, it bears them all with forbearance. It puts up with any amount of beatings. Even when it is starved of food and water, it presents a calm face. Man has thus to learn the quality of forbearance from the donkey.”

- Sathya Sai

Nurturing Children's Love for Animals



Alba (Pony), Sunshine (Sheep)

Children recognise the intrinsic value of animals; they know they are so important simply because they are living creatures. They ignite in the children a lifelong love of animals, and encounters with wild animals can be extra-special. Children learn about their differences and similarities and their needs (such as for food, shelter, space) and in this way their compassion and empathy for the animals grow.



Sanctuaries in Austria

Nature reserve and safe space for animals



Tic, Tac, Toe & Rainbow
(In Front) (Goats)

Annemarie (Cow)

“Animal Spirit” has three beautiful locations with green pastures and ponds, one is situated in ‘Am Hendlberg’ (Lower Austria) and two in ‘Esternberg’ and ‘Engelberg’ (Upper Austria). Animals that are abused, neglected, abandoned, tortured or rescued from the slaughterhouse are provided shelter and maintained until their natural death.

The three farms nourish a total of 26 cattle, 37 horses, 34 donkeys, 66 sheep, 66 goats, 25 pigs, 5 llamas, and many dogs, chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, guinea pigs, bearded dragons, altogether just over 600 animals.

[Download](#) and **Read** the true stories of animals rescued from the slaughterhouse (Written by Animal Spirit)

Human Impacts – Factory Farming v/s Farm Animal Welfare



Our modern food system has a profound and significant impact on the environment. *“This is partly because high-yield but health-compromised livestock have been shown to produce higher GHG (Greenhouse Gases) emissions”* - [World Society for the Protection of Animals \(WSPA\)](#)

Throughout human history, animals have played a critical role in agriculture, providing us labour, fiber and food, and enriching the soil with their animal manure. However, today, millions of animals are born into the cruel world of factory farming. They will never know kindness or compassion, many will never touch grass or see the sun. They often live in dark, overcrowded, filthy and confined spaces. Their basic needs and freedom are consistently denied. [Read more](#)

“The majority of beef cattle are slaughtered in facilities that process more than one million animals annually, or nearly 3,000 per day; and despite many improvements, at this speed, it is nearly impossible to guarantee that every animal is slaughtered within the regulations.”

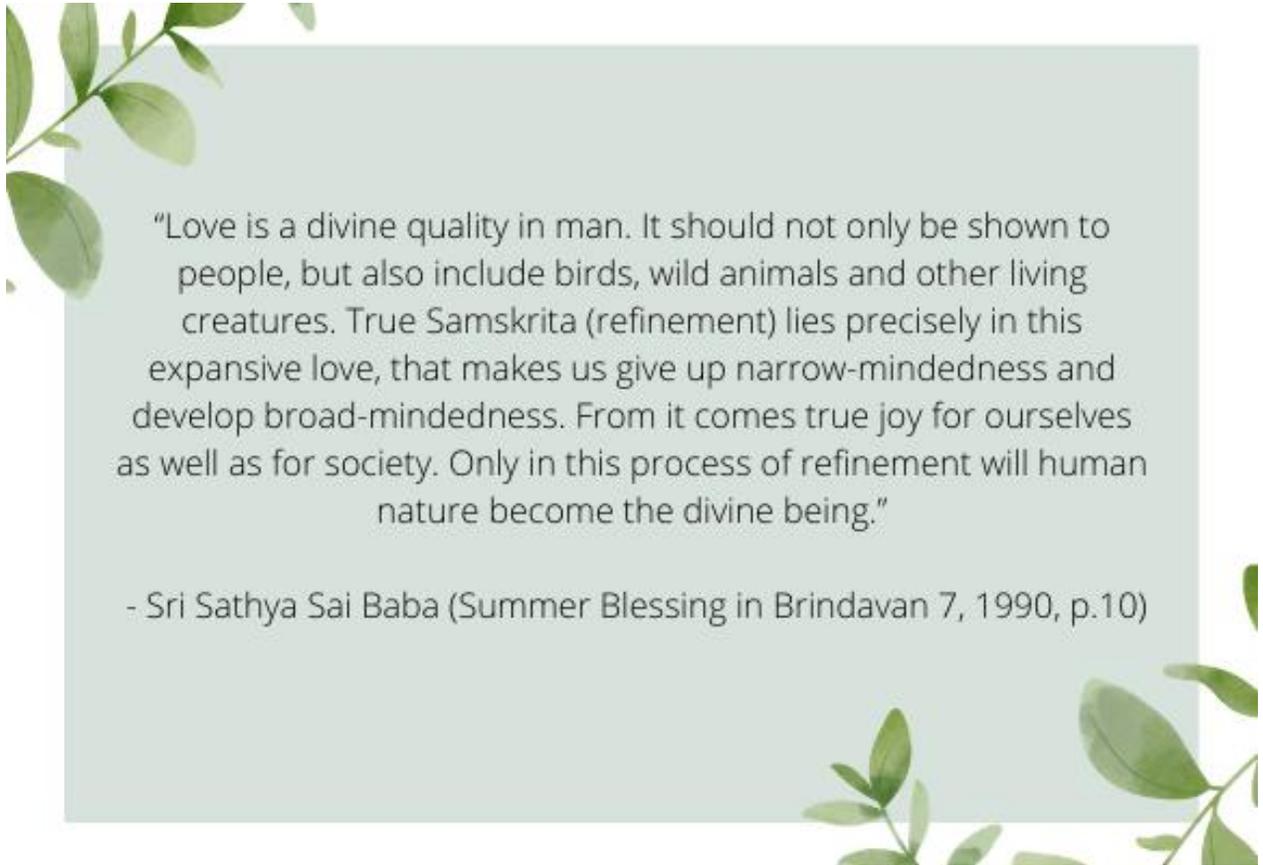
- United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, April 2013

Reflections on the Impact of Human Activity on the World's Wildlife

According to the World Wildlife Fund living planet report 2018, an average 60% drop in the population of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians has been reported since 1970.

The World Research Institute predicts that improving the feed quality (highest-quality and most digestible grasses) and providing critical boosts to the health of herbivorous mammals (ruminants) can reduce GHG emissions in many developing regions by two-thirds.

Wildlife around the world continues to dwindle. There is an urgent need for everyone to collectively rethink and change the course of actions. It is time to redefine our relationship with the environment and balance our food consumption with Nature's needs and supply.



"Love is a divine quality in man. It should not only be shown to people, but also include birds, wild animals and other living creatures. True Samskrita (refinement) lies precisely in this expansive love, that makes us give up narrow-mindedness and develop broad-mindedness. From it comes true joy for ourselves as well as for society. Only in this process of refinement will human nature become the divine being."

- Sri Sathya Sai Baba (Summer Blessing in Brindavan 7, 1990, p.10)