



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India

(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)

(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

F. No. AC-01003/1/2024-AWBI

Dt. 29th October, 2024

MESSAGE TO CELEBRATE A COMPASSIONATE AND ECO-FRIENDLY DEEPAVALI

Dear all,

I am truly delighted to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous Deepavali. This festival of lights, joy, and unity is celebrated with great enthusiasm across our country and around the world. However, it's essential to recognize that certain traditional practices, especially the use of firecrackers, can significantly harm our environment and the animals we share it with, including pets, strays, and wildlife. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) urges everyone to adopt eco-friendly practices this Deepavali, ensuring that our celebrations bring happiness to all living beings.

2. The loud noise from firecrackers causes immense distress to animals, whose hearing is much more sensitive than ours. The explosions can exceed 150 decibels, triggering fear and anxiety in animals, often resulting in trembling, whimpering, or frantic attempts to find safety. This panic heightens the risk of accidents and injuries, and in severe cases, can even lead to death.

3. Birds and wildlife are particularly vulnerable during Deepavali. The loud noises disrupt their natural behaviors and navigation, causing them to abandon their nests or fly erratically, often leading to fatal collisions. Animals in urban areas are also affected, fleeing their habitats due to the chaos and noise.

4. Prolonged exposure to such high-decibel sounds can inflict physical harm on animals, potentially impairing their hearing and causing long-term stress that elevates their heart rates, weakens their immune systems, and leads to digestive issues. Additionally, some individuals engage in cruel

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practices by tying firecrackers to animals, resulting in severe injuries or even death. These acts are not only unethical but also punishable under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

5. It is our collective responsibility to celebrate Deepavali with compassion to the fellow beings. The AWBI encourages everyone to choose low-noise or firecracker-free festivities. If you do choose to use firecrackers, please select low-decibel or eco-friendly options approved by the government, and refrain from using them near animal shelters, parks, or residential areas to minimize distress to animals.

6. Communities should actively discourage the misuse of firecrackers on animals and educate children about the cruelty and dangers involved. In the event of any incidents of animal cruelty, please report them immediately to the police or animal welfare organizations. Additionally, let's take steps to protect animals during these festivities by providing safe, quiet places for pets and strays, along with access to clean drinking water, helping them cope with the stress.

7. I also urge everyone to embrace eco-friendly alternatives for lighting diyas (earthen lamps) and using Panchagavya products made from cow dung and natural materials, supporting rural communities while reducing our environmental impact. Similarly, it is requested to use natural plant-based colours for creating rangolis to avoid any harmful chemicals often found in synthetic alternatives.

8. Let us come together to celebrate this Deepavali by not just illuminating our homes but also our hearts with compassion and kindness. By choosing eco-friendly and animal-friendly practices, we can ensure that the festival spreads joy to every living being, creating a positive impact on both our environment and society.

9. Hindi version follows.

Yours Sincerely,



(Dr. Abhijit Mitra)
Chairman, AWBI