# Your ETER INARIAN 

## THE VOICEOF VETERINARIANS

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03 Kandy Esala Perehera and involvements of elephants

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THE VOICE OF VETERINARIANS

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# Biographies of Authors 

## Dr. Niranjala de Silva (FSLCVS, PhD, BVSc)



Dr. Niranjala de Silva is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (DVCS), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya. She was the Head of DVCS and a member of University Senate. She is specialized in Veterinary Anaesthesia, Surgery and Diagnostic Imaging. She obtained her PhD from University of Cambridge, UK and a winner of Cambridge Trust Scholarship. She was instrumental in establishing the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital since early 2020s and still striving to upgrade the services provided by it. She is a Fellow of Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and Founder Fellow and the present President of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons. She is also a member of the Veterinary Council of Sri Lanks and was the immediate past President of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA).

## Prof. Indira Silva



She is a Professor emeritus with over 40 years of service at University of Peradeniya (UoP), where she held many leading titles, including Head of Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (DVCS), first lady to hold that post in the history. She was a member of University Senate and one of the key persons in setting up the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She is a Fulbright Scholar with a PhD from University of California at Davis and BVSc from UoP. She is a past President of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, a founder Fellow of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons, Member of the Sri Lanka College of Haematologists, and the author of four books and many award winning research publications.

## Prof. Ashoka Dangolla



He joined the Department of Veterinary Clinical Science in 1989, served as the first resident clinician at Veterinary Teaching Hospital and currently serving as a Professor, and as an Honorary Director for the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation. He has held positions of Head of the Department, Warden, Deputy Proctor, Proctor, Student counselor, Chairman of Sports Advisory Committee and President of the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association. He has supervised MSc, MVSc., MPhil and PhD students, published on areas of dogs, cats, goats, pigs, monkeys and elephants with special interest on human animal conflict.

## Dr. Dilan Amila Satharasinghe (BVSc, MVM, PhD)



Dr Satharainghe graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science in 2006 and later obtained a MVM in Biosecurity from Massey University in 2012, New Zealand and year 2016, a PhD in Immunology at the University Putra Malaysia. Presently he is a senior lecturer at the University of Peradeniya. His research interests include characterization and understanding of the immunopathogenesis of pathogens that directly impact food security and food safety. He collaboratively works with the animal production industry to strengthen sustainable production and distribution networks. He has been a resource person for national and international animal disease diagnostics and management workshops. Besides, his research outcomes were published in high impact scientific journals and he obtained presidential awards for his scientific contributions from 2016 onwards. Since 2016, he has been able to secure international and national grants worth 86.4 million and establish a modern laboratory equipped for molecular diagnosis of animal diseases, including Covid-19 in humans. He has been funded by the University Grants Commission to implement one health approach for successful contain COVID-19 with the utilization of genetic tools to tracing SARS-CoV-2 transmission, especially when the positive cases could not be traced up to the exposure point, identify epidemiological dynamics and improve the control measures.

## Dr. Deepika Wanninayake (BVSc)





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## Dr. Erandi Pathirana BVSc, MSc, PhD



Dr. Erandi Pathirana is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. After obtaining her first degree from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University Peradeniya, she proceeded with a master's degree from the Osaka Prefecture University, Japan. Having specialized in Aquatic Animal Health and Microbiology for her PhD, from the School of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney, Australia, Dr. Pathirana is interested in providing her expertise in maintaining health in commercial aquaculture and in natural aquatic ecosystems.

## Dr. J.M.K.J.K. Premarathne (BVSc, MPhil, PhD)



Dr. Premarathne is a senior Lecturer of the Department of Livestock and Avian Sciences, Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries and Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. She obtained her undergraduate degree in BVSc (2006) from University of Peradeniya, later she has completed her MPhil in 2013 at the University of Peradeniya. She successfully completed her PhD in 2017 at the University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia. She is a working as an assessor in the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) for conformity assessment. She is the current president of the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS). Dr Premarathne is a member of the Working Group on "Guidelines and Training Manuals for Risk Assessment, Risk Management and Risk Communication for Genetically Modified food and feed safety", National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka. She also serves as an associate editor for the Food Research Journal, Malaysia. Her research interest include Zoonoses and one health, food safety, food security and quality assurance, molecular and rapid detection methods and risk analysis and quantitative risk modeling in food systems. Her research outcomes were published in high impact scientific journals. For her research efforts she was awarded a Presidential Awards Scientific publications, Sri Lanka. Her researche has been exclusively funded 44 milliion by World Bank Development Oriented Research Grants and National Research Council.

## Dr.C. Dushyanthan (BVSc, MVSc in Animal Science)



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Dr. Uditha Wijesinghe (BVSc)








Dr. Sylvia Wijayarathna (BVSc)


Sylvia Wijayarathna, graduated in 2015, and is currently practicing at an Animal rescue organisation. Her passions are Animal Rights and Welfare, Feline Medicine and Sri Lankan Dogs, and also has quite a soft spot for horses. She's the proud owner of nine rescue dogs and seven cats.

## Voice of the editorial team

## Dear readers,

We are glad to release the second volume of the 'Your Veterinarian' quarterly magazine which was launched early this year as a mode of communicating veterinary related subjects to the general public. We could not print the volume for the second quarter of the year due to the lockdown situation in the country because of the 3rd wave of Covid 19. However, we are glad to issue this second volume which contains articles from all the veterinary related fields for the interest of the readers. We have articles spanning from pet animals, farm animals, wildlife \& aquatic animals, public health to animal welfare \& different articles talking about the human-animal bond in Sri Lankan culture. Therefore, we believe that you will read the articles in this magazine too with great interest.

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association which was founded in 1940 has passed eight decades for servicing the profession. We believe that there should be a closer communication with the general public for educating and empowering the animal loving people in this country. We are trying to share with you some of our knowledge, experience and views in order to strengthen the link among us. You are invited to write to us or communicate to us by any convenient means about your feelings on this magazine, veterinary service, your experiences or any other views that you have about the veterinary related areas. We welcome your ideas and wish to address them in the upcoming volumes of the magazine and your ideas will be considered as valuable
suggestions for the development of the bond among us and our profession in general.

We included articles in all three languages in the magazine giving due consideration to readers conversant with all three languages. Any ideas about the content of the articles or composition of the magazine are important for future improvements of the magazine. In future, we expect to include more articles targeting the school children to make them aware of importance and benefits of having pets, looking after them well, contribution of food of animal origin to maintain healthy life, protection of wild animals etc. Please link-up using any mode of communication with the SLVA in future for the mutual benefit.

Take care and stay safe!
Write to: Editorial Committee, Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, No. 275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 7.
Email: secretary@slva.org
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# Kandy Esala Perehera and involvements of elephants 

Prof. Ashoka Dangolla

Kandy esala perehera begins from Aluthnuwara devalaya, Mawanella which conducts perehera for 21 consecutive days out of which the last 5 days are colorfully and glamorously held at nights. This happens much earlier compared to perehera held in Kandy each year. During this time in Aluthnuwara, the KAP, a tree with latex (normally Jak) is identified from a clean land and some rituals carried out for 7 consecutive days. A portion of this tree is ceremonially cut, washed with saffron, is brought with utmost respect to Aluthnuwara temple of the god and is venerated until the Aluthunuwara perehera is over. The KAP then is transported on elephant back to Kandy Vishnu temple, after which Kandy esala perehera theoretically begins. The relics, gods ornaments and KAP, are carried on a tusker, if not a male elephant. Thus a tusker is the most culturally valuable animal, followed by non tusker males (aliya, pussa). In any perehera, the Nilame, the lay custodian of the relics (gods ornaments), is given the highest priority and therefore the best talented
traditional Kandyan dancing troupe performs immediately in front of the Nilame. In Aluthnuwara however, the Nilame does not walk in the procession, because the attire of Aluthnuwara god is identical to that of costume of the Nilame (Kandyan noble costume) and nobody would dare dress like the god!

KAP at Vishnu temple in Kandy then, is cut into 5 sections and is ceremonially distributed among the Maligawa and the 4 devalayas (Natha, Vishnu, Kataragma and Pattini) in "KAP planting" ceremony. From that day, the Kandy esala perehera begins firstly on 5 consecutive days within the respective temple premises, secondly Kumbal (less colorful) on the streets for further 5 consecutive nights and thirdly, colorful Randoli Perehera during 5 subsequent and consecutive nights. The Kandy esala perehera each day, is a combination of 5 sections, firstly Maligawa (any color), followed by Natha (light yellow), Vishnu (blue), Kataragama (red) and Pattini (yellow) gods' temples in that order which can be identified from their respective colors. The first Kumbal perehera is
generally witnessed by many children because most parents believe that this could bring their children good luck and gets rid of the "evil eye". In the first Kumbal perehara, the Diyawadana Nilame, walks as the custodian while the rest of the 4 Kumbal days, one of the four other custodians of temples of gods, walks on behalf of the Diyawadana Nilame. On the $6^{\text {th }}$ consecutive day of the public perehera (Kumbal), it becomes Randoli which are colorful. All 4 Nilames and the Diyawadana Nilame, walk in all Randoli pereheras, in their respective sections. The dress of Nilames, elephants, illuminations and dancing troupes become more colorful during Randoli. Most often, the length of the perehera on each day increases with Randoli, since the number of dancing items and elephants keep increasing. National and international photo-graphers, film producers and writers prefer to witness Randoli for these reasons.

A television recording is done at some point of Randoli, using very powerful lighting and equipment that suddenly move sideways and upwards closer to elephants in parade. Elephant keepers and elephant veterinarians are made aware of such filming beforehand to be prepared for any potential emergency. Health clinics for elephants, elephant keepers, dancers and drummers are also held during one of the Randoli days since

function organisers throughout the country whenever there is a request. Few individuals identified as specialists in attaching electric bulbs and providing illumination to elephants, before the auspicious times examine all elephant dresses fix bulbs. At end he connects them to the battery completing the circuit. In the olden days, a motor car battery with acid, was used on the neck of the elephants but since of late, a modern new battery, is secured under the neck.

The Maligawa currently owns 5 tuskers trained to carry the casket which includes one local, one Indian, a Thai and two from Myanmar. There are 4 other tuskers and 2 non tuskers belonging to Maligawa which are not trained to carry the casket yet. Asgiriya and Malwatta, the two main chapters of buddhist temples in Kandy own one tusker each who are still young and have not been fully trained to carry the casket as yet. Private elephant owners and other temples in Sri Lanka own 2 local tuskers (Kataragama Wasana, Gampaha Eka danta), one Indian (Nedungamuwa), two Thai (Kelaniya, Kandevihare) and two from Myanmar (Bellanvila, Kotte), 8 in total. The few captive elephants gifted from India, Thailand and Myanmar have been trained to participate in the perehera.
This involved teaching local language in the presence of different new people for the elephant and new surroundings. Firstly, they are trained to our surrounding for about 3 months mostly by keeping them tied with both hind legs to a tree, stump or to concrete poles in the temple in a public place. Elephant keepers get used to them during this period and while feeding, providing water and bathing, they speak a few words to elephants. Once such elephants are used to a few words in Sri Lankan elephant language, which has less than 50 words in total, he is taken for small walks with several other keepers (for additional safety). Until this time, the keepers and veterinarians from their respective countries of importation, stay in Sri Lanka with the elephant concerned. Such elephants are taken for baths usually in a tank, stream or a pond by the new keepers while the original keepers are around. I have interestingly encountered a situation in which a smart Sri Lankan keeper learnt elephant language of Myanmar and used Myanmar elephant language to get to know a tusker gifted from Myanmar ! It has also been noticed that most senior experienced elephant keepers are left unemployed because their elephants have died and new captive elephants are scarce.

Surprisingly, most owners, keepers and therefore the custodians or chief organizers of elephant events know the time of the year and also approximate duration of musth periods in most male elephants. Information on the time and duration of occurrence of musth is also important if the owners want to sell such male elephants. There had been a situation where a male was proven to be culturally useless due to his musth overlapping with Esala Perehera. He was exchanged to a different male elephant from Pinnawela orphanage who currently serves the purpose better. The vehicles for elephant transportation and their drivers have no documented standards set by those owners or by the state. Lives of several important elephants had been lost because such vehicles were not up to the standard and/or the drivers were inexperienced and/or were reckless. The elephants, at times even tuskers, have died due to such accidents. Our observations have never shown evidence of thermal distress due to ear flaps in elephants in perehera possibly because it moves extremely slowly at a speed inadequate to disturb thermo regulatory system. Furthermore, perehera is held at night when the environment is relatively cold and Kandy is located in the central hill country of Sri Lanka which is anyway colder compared to most other areas in Sri Lanka.

A few employees during perehera, carry spray cans hanging on their back who keep spraying water on to pieces of Kopra with fire which have been accidently fallen on the ground from the torches. This prevents likely accidents of burns to elephants. It must be remembered that noise and fire are used to chase wild elephants away from human habitat while the captive elephants are supposed to walk with such disturbances in a Perehera! Most keepers believe that their elephant, once allowed to let loose, may not want to be obedient or may prefer to enjoy freedom thereafter. Therefore, allowing elephants to be loose without chains for short periods, providing longer chains or allowing them to be free with other elephants are not acceptable to them. This situation must be carefully analysed, studied and attended if captive elephants are to be given a proper leisure time. It is appropriate to mention here that using specially prepared coir straps to prevent chain cuts can be made popular in Sri Lanka despite the initiative to adopt novel innovative methods of elephant management by keepers and owners.


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Dr. திருமதி. நர்மதா குமுதன் (BVSc) அரச கால்நடை வைத்தியர் மாகாணப்பணிமனை - கிழக்கு மாகாணம்

## தரமான பாலுற்பத்தி

இலங்கையில் ஆடு மற்றும் மாடு வளர்ப்பு என்பது முக்கியமாக பாலுற்பத்தியை அடிப்படை நோக்காகக் கொண்டுள்ளது. பாலில் தன்னிறைவு
 முன்னேறிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் விலங்கு விவசாயமா னது பாலுற் பத் தியை அதிகரிப்பதுடன் தரமான/ சுத்தமான பாலுற்பத்தியில் அதிக அக்கறை கொண்டுள்ளது. பாலின் தரத்திற்கேற்ப பா லา ற் கா க வழ ங் கப்படு ம் விலையிலுள்ள வித்தியாசம் இதற்கு சான்றாக அமைகின்றது.


சுத்தமான பால் எனும் போது ஆரோக்கியமான விலங்கின் பால் ம டி யา லา ரு ந து சு கா த ா ர நடைமுறைகளின் கீழ் உற்பத்தி செய்து பெறப்பட்டதும் மிகக்குறைந் த எண் ணிக் கை யிலா ன தீ ங் கற் $\mathfrak{B}$ நுண் ணியிர் களைக் கொண்டதும் தீங்கான இராசயணம் மற்றும் தூசு துணிக்கைகள், பூச்சிகள், வைக்கோல், உரம் போன்றவற்றின் கலப்படம் அற்றதும் ஆரோக்கியமா ன சுகாதாரமான பால் கறப்பவரினால் சுகாதாரமான சூழலில் பெறப்பட்டதும் மனிதப் பாவனைக்கு உகந்ததுமான பாலாகும்.

## பாலின் உள்ளடக்கம்

சாதாரணமாக பால்; கொழுப்பு 4\% உம், இலக்டோஸ் 4.8\% உம், புரதம் $3.5 \%$ உம், தாதுக்கள் $0.7 \%$ உம் மிகுதி 87.5\% நீடுமாக நடுநிலை Ph ஆன 6.7 இனைக் கொண்டுள்ளது.


பசும்பாலின் (Raw milk)
தன்மையைக் பாதிக்கும் காரணிகள்
பால் கறக்கும் போதும், கறந்ததன் பின்னர் கையாளப்படும் முறையினைப் பொறுத் தும், ஒரு சில சூழல் காரணிகளின் தாக் கத் தினா லும்
 பாதிப்படைகின்றது.

- பால் கறக்கும் செயன்முறை

பால் கறக்கும் போது கடைசி இழுவைகளில் கூடுதலான கொழுப்பு பா லுட ன் வெ ளியே றுவ தா ல் விலங்கிலிருந்து முழுமையாக பால் கறக்கப்படாதவிடத்து பெறப்பட்ட பாலிலுள்ள கொழுப்பின் அளவு குறைவடைகின்றது.

- பாலூட்டலின் நிலைகள் (Stages of Lactation)

பசு கன்று ஈன்று முதல் 05 நாட்களில் கடும்புப்பால் / சீம்பாலை (Colostrum) உற்பத்தி செய்கின்றது. இது சாதாரண பாலை விட கார ( Ph 6.8 - 6.9) தன்மையானதாகவும் ஊட்டச் சத் துக் கள் ம்ற் றும் பา $\mathfrak{B}$ பபாரு ள் எ தา ரา க ள நிறைந்ததாகவும் காணப்படுகின்றது.

- மடி அழற்சி நோய்

சு கா தாரம $\mathfrak{B} \mathfrak{\bigotimes}$ சூ ழ லา ல் வளர்க்கப்படும் மாடுகள் மடி அழற்சி நோயினால் பாதிக்கப்படும் போது பெறப்படும் பாலானது அதிக கார தன்மையையும் அதிக குளோரைட் உ ள` ள ட க’ க த’ த ப யு ம` கொண்டிருப்பதுடன் குறைவான புரதம் மற்றும் நீரில் கரையக்கூடிய விற்றமின்களையும் கொண்டதாக அமைகின்றது.


- உணவூட்டல் முறை

மாப்பொருள் அதிகமாகவுள்ள தீவனங்களை கொடுக்கும் போது பாலிலுள்ள கொழுப்பின் அளவு 2.5\% ஆகக் குறைவடைகின்றது. ஆகையால், தரமான பாலை உற்பத்தி செய்ய முறையான தீவன விகிதம் அவசியமாகும்.

- சேமிப்பு முறை

குளிர் சகிப்பு தன்மை கொண்ட ஒரு சில நுண்ணங்கிகளைத் தவிர (Ex: Psychrotrophs) ஏனையவை குறைவான வெப்பநிலையில்
பெருக்கமடைவது தாமதப்படுத்தப்படுவதனால் $4^{\circ}$ செல்சியஸ் வெப்பநிலையில் பாலினை 72

மணித்தியாலங்களுக்கு மேலாக பாதுகாக்கக்கூடியதாக உள்ளது.

- வெப்பமாக்கல் விளைவு
$63^{\circ}$ செல்சியஸில் 30 நிமிடங்கள் அல்லது $72^{\circ}$ செல்சியஸில் 15 செக்கன்கள் வெப்பமேற்றுவதன் மூலம் பாலிலுள்ள $90 \%$ ஆன நுண்ணங்கிகள் அழிக்கப்படுவதனால் அதனை நீண்டகாலத்திற்கு சேமிக்கக்கூடியதாக உள்ளது. ஆனால், இவ்வெப்பமாக்கலின் போது பாலிலுள்ள புரதத்தில் சிறிதளவும் நீரில் கரையக்கூடிய விற்றுமின்களும் அழிவடைவதால் பாலின்
உண்மைத்தரம் பாதிக்கப்படுகின்றது.
- விலங்குகளில் நுண்ணியிர் கொல்லிகளின் பாவனை

நுண்ணியிர் கொல்லிகள் தசையினாடாக அல்லது முலைக்காம்பினாடாக செலுத்தப்படும் போது 72 மணித்தியாலயங்களுக்கு பாலை பெறப்படுவதற்கான சாத்தியம் காணப்படுகின்றது.
தரமான பாலறற்பத்திகளுக்கான உத்திகள் / வழிமுறைகள் பாலுற்பத்தியின் போது சுகாதாரமற்ற நடைமுறைகள் காரணமாக தரமான பாலை பெறுவது கடினமாக உள்ளது. இதனால், பண்ணையாளர்கள் பொருளாதார ரீதியாக பாதிப்படையக்கூடிய சந்தர்ப்பங்களும் உண்டு. இதனை தடுப்பதற்காக பல வழிமுறைகள் கையாளப்படுகின்றன.

- விழிப்புணர்வு மற்றும் பயிற்சி சுத்தமான / தரமான பசும்பால் உற்பத்தியின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை பண்ணையாளர்களுக்கு உணர்த்தும் வகையில் விளக்கப்படங்கள், சுவரொட்டிகள், காணொளிகள் மற்றும் பயிற்சி வகுப்புக்கள் போன்றன திட்டமிடப்படல் வேண்டும்.
- உணவூட்டல் முறைமை அடர்தீவனத்திற்கும் இயற்கை தீவனத்திற்குமான விகிதாசாரம் சரியாகப் பேணப்படுவதுடன் சரியான முறையில் தீவனங்கள்
சேமிக்கப்படல் வேண்டும். அத்துடன் தீவனத்தின் மூலப்பொருள்கள் நம்பகமான நுண்ணங்கிகள் அற்ற முறையில் பெறப்படல் வேண்டும்.
- வீடமைப்பு முறை

காற்று, சூரிய ஒளி மற்றும் சூரிய வெப்பம் என்பன சரியான முறையில்

கிடைக்கத்தக்க வகையிலும் சாணம், சிறுநீீர் மற்றும் தீவன எச்சங்களை அகற்றுவதற்கு பொருத்தமானதாகவும் விலங்குகளுக்கான தொழுவங்கள் அமைக்கப்படல் வேண்டும்.

- சுகாதார முறைமைகள் விலங்குகளின் ஆரோக்கியத்திற்கு உகந்ததாகவும் உற்பத்தியின் தரத்தினை உறுதிப்படுத்தும் நோக்குடனும் சுகாதார நடைமுறைகள் பின்பற்றறப்படல் வேண்டும். உதாரணமாக, கழிவகற்றும் வடிகால்களில் எளிதாக நீரை வெளியேற்றுவதற்காக நீர் வடிந்தோடும் வகையில் நிலச்சாய்வு அமைய வேண்டும். இச்சுகாதார நடைமுறைகள் விலங்கு, பால் கறப்பவர், பால் கறக்கப்படும் இடம், பால் கறக்க பயன்படுத்தப்படும் உபகரணங்கள் என்பவற்றை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்டு நடைமுறைப்படுத்தப்படல் வேண்டும்.
- பால் சேகரிப்பு மற்றும் போக்குவரத்து


கறக்கப்பட்ட பால் உடனடியாக குளிரூட்டும் தொட்டிகளில் சேமிக்கப்படும் போது பால் பழுதடையும் வீதத்தினைக் குறைக்கலாம். இதன் போது பயன்படுத்தப்படும் உபகரணங்களின் சுத்தத்தை பேணுவது அவசியமாகும். சேகரிக்கப்பட்ட பால் போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்களில் கொண்டுசெல்லப்படும் போது அதிகமாக தளம்பலுறாத வகையில் கொண்டுசெல்வதன் மூலம் பாலிலுள்ள கொழுப்பு ஒட்சிசன் ஏற்றப்பட்டு பால் பழுதடைவதை தவிர்க்க முடியும்.

- பசுவின் உடலினை துாரிகையினால் துப்பரவு செய்தல்

பசுவின் உடலினை தூரிகை / தென்னந்தும்பு / தும்புக்கயிறு மூலம் துப்பரவு செய்வதனால் தோலிலுள்ள நுண்ணங்கிகள், ஒட்டுண்ணிகள் அகற்றப்படுவதுடன் இரத்தோட்டமும் அதிகரிப்பதால் பால் உற்பத்தி $8 \%$ இனால் அதிகரிக்கின்றது.

- ஒழுங்கற்ற குளம்பினை 3 மாதத்திற்கு ஒருமுறை சீர் அமைத்தல்

இதனால் மேய்ச்சலுக்கு
அனுப்பப்படும் மாடுகள் சிக்கலின்றி
உணவைப்பெற்றுககொள்வதால் பாலுற்பத்தி $10 \%$ ஆனால் அதிகரிக்கின்றது.

- பசுவிற்கு பால் உற்பத்தியின் 5 மடங்கு நீர் ஒவ்வொரு நாளும் வழங்கல்

பாலில் $75 \%$ நீராக இருப்பதனாலும் பசுவின் உடலில் நடைபபறும் அனைத்து உடல்
தொழிற்பாடுகளுக்கும் நீர் அவசியமாக இருப்பதனாலும் போதியளவு நீர் வழங்கப்படுதல் பாலுற்பத்தியை அதிகரிக்கின்றது.

- வற்றுக்காலத்தில் ஒவ்வொருநாளும் நீர் வழங்குதல்
வற்றுக்காலத்தில் பசுவிலிருந்து பால் பெறப்படாத போதும் அடுத்த கன்றிற்கான / அடுத்த பாலுற்பத்தி காலத்திற்கான ஏற்பாட்டுக்காலமாக இது இருப்பதனால் அக்காலப்பகுதியில் ஒவ்வொருநாளும் 40லீற்ற்ர் நீர் வழங்கி பசுவை பராமரிப்பது அவசியமாகின்றது.
- சரியான அளவில் கனியுப்பு வழங்கல்

தற்போதைய காலகட்டத்தில் உணவின் மூலம் கிடைக்கும் கனியுப்புக்கள் போதாமல் இருப்பதால் ஓவ்வொரு நாளும் 100கி.கிராம் உடல் நிறைக்கு 5 கிராம் என்ற விகிதத்தில் கனியுப்பு வழங்கல் வேண்டும்.

- பசுவிற்கு அழுத்தம் ஏற்படாமல் பாதுகாத்தல்

சீரற்ற காலநிலை, போதிய உணவு மற்றும் நீர் வசதியின்மை, மனிதர்களால் ஏற்படுத்தப்படும் துன்புறுத்தல்கள் என்பன காரணமாக பசுவிற்கு அழுத்தம் ஏற்படும் போது பாலுற்பத்தி குறைவது அவதானிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளமையால் அவற்றிலிருந்து பசுவை பாதுகாத்தல் அவசியமாகும்.

- அக, புற ஒட்டுண்ணிகளை அகற்றல்

ஒழுங்கான முறையில் ஒழுங்கான இடைவேளையில் அக மற்றும் பு ஒட்டுண்ணிகளை அகற்றுவது பசுவின் உடல் தொழிற்பாடுகள் சீராக நடைபெறுவதற்கு ஏதுவாக அமைவதால் பாலறற்ப்தி அதிகரிக்கின்றது.

- பால் மடியில் உள்ள பாலை முற்றாக அகற்றல்
பால் மடியிலுள்ள பால் முற்றாக அகற்றப்படாதவிடத்து பால் கறக்கும் வீதம் மட்டுப்படுத்தப்படுவதால் முழுமையாக உற்பத்தியினை பெறமுடியாத நிலை ஏற்படுகின்றது. இதைத் தவிர்ப்பதற்காக பால் மடியிலுள்ள பால் முற்றாக அகற்றப்படுவதை
உறுதிப்படுத்துவதுடன் இரண்டு பால் கறத்தலுக்கு இடைப்பட்ட நேரம் 10-14 மணித்தியாலங்களுக்கு மேற்படாதவாறும் பேணப்படல் வேண்டும்.

மேற்படி விடயங்கள் கருத்தில் கொள்ளப்படும் போது பாலுற்பத்தி அதிகரிப்பது மட்டுமல்லாமல் தரமான பாலினையும் பெறக்கூடியதாக இருப்பதால் பண்ணையாள்் பொருளாதார ரீதியாக இலாபமடைவதுடன் நாட்டின் பாலிற்கான தன்னிறைவு எனும் கருப்பொருளும் முழுமையாக எட்டத்தக்க வகையில் இலகுவாக்கப்படுகின்றது.


# தும்பங்கேணியன் (Thumbernkernian) 

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ஏழைகளின் பசு என அழைக்கப்படும் ஆடுகள், பல பயன்பாட்டு (Multipurpose) நநாக கา ற் கா க பயன்படுகின்றன. அதாவது இறைச்சி, பால், உரோமம் மற்றும் தோல் என பல பயன்களை கொடுக்கும் ஆடுகள் கிழக்கு மாகாணத்தின் கால்நடை வளர் ப் பு பண் ணையா ளர் க ளி ன் வருமானமாக இருக்கின்றது. இங்கு கூடுதலாக உள்ளூர் இன ஆடுகளுடன் ஜமுனாபாரி ஆடுகளும் ஜமுனாபாரி கலப்பின ஆடுகளும் காணப்படுகின்ற நிலையில் இறைச்சி தேவைக்காக பெரும்பாலான பண்ணையாளர்களினால் ஆடு வளர்ப்பு மேற்கொள்ளப்படுவது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

ஜமுனாபாரி ஆடுகளும் ஜமுனாபாரி கலப்பின ஆடுகளும் உற்பத்தித்திறன் குறைவாகக் காணப்படுவதும் கிழக்கு மாகாண வெப்பநிலைக்கு இசைவாக்கம் அடையாதிருப்பதுவும் ஒட் டுண் ணி தாக்கங்களுக்கு எதிர்ப்புச் சக்தியை கொண்டிராததும் இவ் வாடுகளின் உற்பத்தி திறனை குறைப்பதுடன் பண்ணையாளர்களுக்கும் சவாலான விடயமாகும்.

இந் த பின் னனியில் கிழக்கு மாகாணத்தின் காலநிலை, உயர் உணவு மாற்றுத்திறன் மற்றும் ஒட்டுண்ணித் தாக்கத்தை கருத்தில் கொண்டு அவற்றிற்கு ஏற்றவாாறன அதேவேளை உற்பத்தித் திறனிலும் கூடிய ஆட்டு இனங்களை உருவாக்க வேண்டுமென்ற தூர நோக்கில் பல
 கட்டுப்பாடுகளுக்கும் மத்தியில் முவ்வழி

இனக்கலப்பு (3 way crossing) மூலம் உருவாக்கப்பட்டதே தும்பங்கேணியன் எ ுும் செயற்றை இனமாகும் (Synthetic breed).

2017 ஆம் ஆண்டில் தெலகெர, இம் பு லா ந் தெ ன் ன ம ற் று ம் யாழ்ப்பாணத்திலிருந்து பெறப்பட்ட பாவணைக்குதவாதென ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட தூய யமுனாபாரி (Jamunapari) மற ஆடுகளை தூய நியுபியன் (Nubian) கிடா ஆடுகளுடன் இனக்கலப்பு செய்து $1^{\text {ib }}$ சந்ததி $\left(\mathrm{F}_{1}\right)$ உருவாக்கப்பட்டது. கிடைக்கப்பெற்ற $1{ }^{\text {1் }}$ சந்ததி $\left(F_{1}\right) 50 \%$ ஜமுனாபாரி இயல்புகளையும் 50\% நาயுபிய ன் இயல் பு களை யு ம் கொண்டிருந் தது. விரும் பத் தக் க ஜமுனாபாரி மற்றும் நியோபியர் இயல்புகளைக் கொண்டிருந்த ஆடுகள் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட $1^{\text {ம் }}$ சந்ததியிலிருந்து ( $\mathrm{F}_{1}$ ) தெரிவுசெய்யப்பட்டன.

இத ன் போது ஜமுனாபாரியின் விரும்பத்தக்க விசேட இயல்புகளான 40 கி.கி - 50 கி.கி வரையான நிறை, 1 - $1^{1} / 2$ வருட வயதிற்குள் முதலாவது இனக்கலப்பிற்கு தயாராதல், அதிக கருக்கட்டல் வீதம், நன்கு வளj்ந்த மடி, பா லுற்பத தา போ னற $\mathfrak{M}$ வ அவதானிக் கப்பட்டன. அவ் வாறே நியுபியனின் விரும்பத்தக்க விசேட இயல்புகளான இறைச் சிக் காகவும் பாலுக் காகவும் பயன்படுத் தப்படும் தன்மை, காலநிலை மாற்ற்ங்களை ச கา தं த ல், ஒ ட'டு ண் ணา த் தாக்கத்திலிருந்து தப்பிப்பிழைத்தல் போன்றவை அவதானிக்கப்பட்டன.


இவ்வாறாக, $1^{\text {i் }}$ சந்ததியிலிருந்து $\left(F_{1}\right)$ ப ல படி மு ற $\mathfrak{B}$ க ளา னு $\operatorname{L}$ ா க தெரிவுசெய்யப்பட்ட மறி ஆடுகள், 2019 ஆ ம ${ }^{\circ}$ ஆ ண ட ள வ 〇 $^{`}$ Dr.W.W.அபயகுணவர்தன, முன்னால் பணிப்பாளர் - இனவிருத்தி பிரிவு அவர்களின் உதவியுடன் இறக்குமதி

செய்து பெறப்பட்ட தூய போயர் (Boer) இன கிடாய் ஆடுகளுடன் கலப்பு செய்யப்பட்டு போயர் இனத்திலும் விரும்பத்தக்க விசேட இயல்புகளான வேகமான வளர்ச்சி வீதம், இறைச்சித் தேவைக்கான உயர் உடல் நிறை, உயர் கருக்கட்டல் வீதம் போன்றவை அவதானிக்கப்பட்டு சிறந்த $2^{\text {i் }}$ சந்ததி ( $\mathrm{F}_{2}$ ) குடும்ப தேர்வு (Family selection), உடன்பிறப்பு தேர்வு (Sibling selection), பரம்பரை தேர்வு (Progeny selection), வெளித்தோற்ற அடிப்படையிலான தேர்வு (Phenotypic selection) போன்ற ப ல படி மு றை க ளา னு $\quad$ டா க தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டது.


இந்த நீண்டகால தும்பங்கேணியன் எனும் செயற்கை இன உருவாக்கல் நடைமுறையில் பல இடர்பாடுகள் எதிர்நோக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. ஜமுனாபாரி, நาயுபาய ன் இ னக க லப் பி ல் கிடைக்கப்பெற்ற $1^{\text {ய் }}$ சந்ததியில் $\left(F_{1}\right)$ கூடுதலான குட்டிகள் இறப்பு வீதம் காணப்பட்டது. பெறப்பட்ட குட்டிகளில் 02 கிழமை வயதின் போது ஏற்பட்ட வயிற் றோட் டம், குட்டிகளினால் காட்டப்பட்ட அறிகுறிகளைக் கொண்டும் நுண்ணயிர்கொல்லி மருந்துகளினால் கு ணப்படு த த முடியாம ல゙ இருந் தமை யி னா லும் வைர ஸ் தாக்கத்தினால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கலாம் என
 விரிவான வளர்ப்பு முறையின் (Extensive management) கீழ் வளர்க்கப்பட்டமையினால் போதியளவு இலை, குழைகள் கிடைக்காத காரண த் தி னா ல் குட்டிகளி ல் ஊ ட் டச் சத் து குறற ற வா க க் காணப்பட்டமை அவதானிக்கப்பட்டது.

அவ்வாறே, 2018 இல் இறக்குமதி செய்யப்பட்ட தூய போயர் இன கிடா ஆடுகளுடன் இனக்கலப்பு
செய்யப்பட்டு பெறப்பட்ட $2^{\text {ம் சந்ததி }}$ $\left(\mathrm{F}_{2}\right)$ முன்னைய அனுபவங்களின் அடிப்படையில் விரிவான வளர்ப்பு

முறையில் (Extensive management) இருந்து அரை தீவிர முகாமைத்துவ முறைக்கு (Semi-Intensive management) மாற்ற்ப்பட்டதுடன் வெட்டி உணவூட்டும் முறையும் பின்பற்றப்பட்டது. இதன் போது குட்டிகள் இறப்பு வீதம் மற்றும் ஒட்டுண்ணித் தாக்கம் என்பன மிகவும் குறைந்த அளவில் இருந்ததுடன் குட்டிகளின் வளர்ச்சி வீதமும் விரும்பத்தக்க வகையில் காணப்பட்டது. $2^{\text {ம் }}$ சந்ததி $\left(\mathrm{F}_{2}\right)$ உருவாக்கத்தின் போது பருவகால இனக்கலப்பு முறை (Seasonal mating) கையாளப்பட்டமையும் இதற்கான ஒரு காரணமாகும்.

இந்த வகையில் $2^{\text {i் }}$ சந்ததியிலிருந்து $\left(\mathrm{F}_{2}\right)$ பெறப்பட்ட கிழக்கு மாகாணத்தின் உருவாக்கமான தும்பங்கேணியன் எனும் செயற்கை இனம் கிழக்கு மாகாணத்தின் காலத்தின் காலநிலை, ஒட்டுண்ணித் தாக்கம் என்பவற்றை எதிர்கொள்ள தகுதியானதாக இருக்கும் அதேவேளை குறைவான குட்டிகள் இறப்பு வீதம், அதிக வளர்ச்சி வீதம், விரும்பத்தக்க உடலமைப்பு மற்றும் 65 தொடக்கம் 75 கிலோ கிராம் வரையான உயிர் நிறை என்பவற்றைக் கொண்டிருப்பதால் இறைச்சித் தேவைக்காகப் பயன்படுத்துவதற்கு மிக உகந்த இனமாகக் காணப்படுகின்றது. இன்றைய நிலையில் வருடத்திற்கு

## தும்பங்கேணியனின் உருவாக்கம்



35 "தும்பங்கேணியன்" கிடா ஆடுகளை உற்பத்தி செய்து கொண்டிருப்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

கிழக்கு மாகாணத்தின் கால்நடை பண்ணையாளர்கள் தூய ஜமுனாபாரி அல்லது தூய நியுபியன் இனங்களை வளர்ப்பதன் மூலம் பொருளாதார ரீதியாக சரியான இலாபத்தினை அடைய முடியாத நிலையில், உரிய நிதி பங்களிப்பு மற்றும் வழிகாட்டல் கிடைக்கும் பட்சத்தில் 2023 ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் வருடத்திற்கு 200 தும்பங்கேணியன் மறி ஆடுகள் என்ற வீதத்தில் பெற்றோர் சந்ததிகளை எமது பண்ணையினூடாக உருவாக்கி நீண்ட கால நோக்கில் பண்ணையாளர்களின் துயர் துடைக்கும் ஆயுதமாக இதனை பயன்படுத்தலாம் என்பதில் எவ்வித ஐயமும் இல்லை. எமது மாகாணத்தில் மட்டுமல்லாது எமது மாகாணத்தை போன்று காலநிலை சூழல் நிலைமைகள் உள்ள ஏனைய இடங்களுக்கும் இது ஒரு வரப்பிரசாதமாக அமையும்.

இவ்வாறான பின்னனியில் கிழக்கு மாகாண கால்நடை உற்பத்தி சுகாதார திணைக்களத்தினரால் மாகாணப்பணிப்பாளர்
Dr.M.A.M.பாஸி அவர்களின் முழுமுயற்சி மற்றும் வழிகாட்டலில் பேராசிரியர் கலாநிதி.(திருமதி). G.L.பிரதீபா சில்வா மற்றும் பேராசிரியர் கலாநிதி.
C.M.B.தெமட்டவெவ ஆகியோரின் ஆலோசனைப்படி முன்னால் கௌரவ ஆளுநர் K.ஒஸ்ரின் பெர்னான்டோ ஒத்தாசையுடன் கிழக்கு மாகாணத்திற்கு உகந்த இயல்புகளைக் கொண்டதாக தும்பங்கேணியன் உருவாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளமை கால்நடை உற்பத்தியில் ஒரு திருப்பு முனை என்றே கூற வேண்டும். இவ்வாறான ஒரு செயன்முறையில் நானும் ஒரு துளியாக செயற்பட்டேன் என்பதில் பெருமை கொள்கின்றேன்.


Dr. M.A.M.பாஸி அவர்களுடன் தும்பங்கேணியன்

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# Nutritional Idiosyncrasies of 

Cats

Dr. Silvia Wijayarathna

Cats are not small dogs. They bear quite a few obligatory nutritional requirements that no other mammal possess. Here are a few nutrition and feeding related facts that show how cats are different from dogs.

1. They are obligate carnivores.

Unlike humans, who can lead a perfectly healthy life devoid of consuming any animal products, cats simply would not survive on a plant based diet. This however, does not mean that they should be fed on a purely meat based diet. Cats can digest and utilize nutrients from plants. Moreover, a very high or all meat diet could be dangerous for cats!
2. They may be allergic to certain carbohydrates

They could be allergic to certain carbohydrates; rice being one of the most commonly seen allergen fed to cats in Sri Lanka. If your cat is suffering from an incurable chronic gastroenteritis, possibly carbohydrate allergy is behind it.
3. Taurine- Source- Raw fish and meat
Taurine, is an amino acid that can be synthesized in the body of most species. Cats however have a limited ability to manufacture it, and therefore, it is considered an essential nutrient to be in a cats' diet. Feline taurine retinopathy, more commonly known as, feline central retinal degeneration (FCRD), is a condition which
develop as a result of long term Taurine deficiency, and could impair your cat's vision. Dilated cardiomyopathy, which is caused by weakened muscle cells of the heart is another condition that could result from Taurine deficiency. Although Taurine is commonly available in meats and fish, it is destroyed easily when cooked. Therefore, unless your cat is a hunter and has access to raw prey, it is advisable to treat your cat to the occasional raw fish or two.
4. They should not be fed certain types of raw fish
"However, it's also to be noted that many types of fish, in their raw form, contain Thiaminase, which is an enzyme that destroys Thiamine (Vitamin B1). This could in turn cause a Thiamine deficiency in your cat. This could lead to anorexia and vomiting followed by neurological signs such as loss of balance and unsteady gait in cats.

## The following fish have been reported to contain thiaminase:

Anchovy (Anchoa hepsetus) Related to "Haalmassa" and "Handalla".

Barb, Olive (Puntius sarana) "Mas Pethiya"

Carp, Common (Cyprinus carpio) Catfish, (Amieurus melas), (Ameiurus nebulosus), (Ictalurus punctatus)
Cod, Black (species undetermined)
Dolphinfish, Common (Coryphaena hippurus)
Goldfish (Carassius auratus)
Herring, Atlantic (Clupea
harrengus)- Related to Sardinellas such as "Hurulla", "Salaya", "Sudaya", Keeramin which also belong to Order: Clupeiformes. Family: Clupeidae

Lamprey, Sea (Petromyzon marinus)
Mackerel, Chub (Scomber japonicus)
Moray Eel, Southern Ocellated
(Gymnothorax ocellatus)
Mullet, Flathead Mugil cephalus)
Godayaa
Parrot, Regal (Scarus dubius) Girawaa

Sardine, Razorbelly, Scaled Sardine (Harengula jaguana)
Scad, Bigeye (Selar
crumenophthalmus)
Shiner, Emerald (Notropis atherinoides)
Shiner, Spottail (Notropis hudsonius)
Smelt, Rainbow (Osmerus mordax)
Snapper, Ruby (Etelis carbunculus)
Swordfish (Xiphias gladius) "Thalapath"
Threadfin, Sixfinger (Polydactylus sexfilis)
Trevally, Giant (Caranx ignobilis) Related to" Parawa"

Tuna, Skipjack (Katsuwonus pelamis) - "Balayaa"

Tuna, Yellowfin (Neothunnus macropterus) - "Kelawallaa"

## Whitefish, Lake (Coregonus clupeaformis)

Whitefish, Round (Prosopium cylindraceum)

Some shrimp, mussles, clams have also been reported to contain thiaminase; (see the Nutrient Requirements of Warmwater Fishes \& Shellfishes by the NRC for more information).

The following fish have been reported free of Thiaminase:

Amberjack, Greater (Seriola dumerilii)

Barracuda, Great (Sphyraena barracuda) "Jeelawa"

Bass, Largemouth (Micropterus salmoides)
Bass, Northern Rock (Ambloplites rupestris)

Bass, Northern Smallmouth (Micropterus dolomieu)

Bloater (Coregonus hoyi)
Cisco / Lake Herring (Coregonus artedi)

Cod, Atlantic (Gadus morhua)
Eel, American (Anguilla rostrata)
Eel, Common (Anguilla anguilla)
Flounder, Winter / Lemon Sole (Pseudopleuronectes americanus)
Flounder, Yellowtail (Limanda ferruginea)

Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus)

Halibut, Atlantic (Hippoglossus hippoglossus)

## Kawakawa (Euthynnus affinis)

Mackerel, Atlantic (Scomber scombrus)

Mullet (Mugil) "Godayaa"
Perch, European (Perca fluviatilis)
Perch, Ocean / Redfish (Sebastes marinus)

Perch, Yellow (Perca flavescens)
Pike, Northern (Esox lucius)
Plaice, American (Hippoglossoides platessoides)
Pollock / Saithe (Pollachius)
Salmon, Atlantic (Salmo salar)
Salmon, Coho (Oncorhynchus kisutch)

Scad, Mackerel (Decapterus pinnulatus) Related to "Linna" and "Bolla"

Scad, Yellowtail (Atule mate) Related to "Linna" and "Bolla"

Sea Catfish, Hardhead (Ariopsis felis)

Seabass, Black (Centropristis striata)
Seatrout, Sand (Cynoscion arenarius)

Seatrout, Silver (Cynoscion nothus)
Skate (Raja)
Sprat, European (Sprattus sprattus)
Surgeonfish, Eyestripe
(Acanthurus dussumieri)
Tilapia (various species)
Trout, Brown (Salmo trutta)
Trout, Lake (Salvelinus namaycush)
Trout, Rainbow (Oncorhynchus mykiss)

Trout, Sea (Salmo trutta)

## 5. Arginine

Taurine and arginine are synthesized at a lower rate as a consequence of low activities of two enzymes in the pathways of synthesis.

Cats also have obligatory dietary requirements for vitamin D and Niacin as the result of high activities of enzymes that catabolise precursors of these vitamins to other compounds. The dietary requirement for pre-formed vitamin $A$ is said to be a result of the lack of enzymes required for cleavage and oxidation of carotenoids. Low activities of desaturase enzymes indicate that cats may have a dietary need for pre-formed PUFA (Poly Unsaturated Fatty Acids) too in addition to those needed by other animals to maintain normal plasma concentrations.


Dr. Oswin Perera (BVSc Ceylon, PhD Glasgow, FSLCVS) was Professor of Farm Animal Production and Health at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, is now retired, but continues to assist with teaching and research. Previously, he worked for the United Nations at the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in Vienna, Austria. His teaching and research have focused on reproduction of cattle, buffaloes and elephants, human - wildlife conflicts, and risks from zoonotic diseases. He is a past President of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, Founder President of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons and current President of the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya. His hobbies include travel, hiking and wildlife photography.

## A Selection of 'Elephantine Friends' Captured by the Lens of a 'Large Animal Vet'

There are three species of elephants existing today: Asian elephant (Elephas maximus), African savannah elephant (Loxodonta africana) and African forest elephant (Loxodonta cyclotis). The Asian elephant has four sub-species: the Sri Lankan (E. maximus maximus), the Indian or Mainland (E. maximus indicus), the Sumatran (E. maximus sumatranus), and the recently recognized Bornean (E. maximus borneensis). Wild Asian elephants are currently present in only 13 countries ('range states'), and their population as estimated by the Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG) of IUCN is 48,000-51,000 (for range map and country populations see: https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/7140/45818198).


## Elephas maximus indicus -

prime adult tusker @ Nagarhole NP, India:
India has $\sim 29,000$ wild elephants, the highest among the 13 range states. There are 29 elephant reserves spread over 14 States covering
$65,000 \mathrm{~km} 2$ (the size of Sri Lanka!). The proportion of tuskers among males in different populations within India range from 40-90\%.


Elephas maximus maximus herd of adult females with calves and juveniles @ Minneriya NP:
This is part of the now world-famous 'Gathering' that occurs annually during July to September in Minneriya and Kaudulla NPs. On the day this photo was taken over 300 elephants were sighted during one afternoon. There were many calves and juveniles, indicating a good reproductive rate.


Elephas maximus indicus female with calf @ Khao-Yai NP, Thailand:
The wild elephant population in Thailand has declined from over 6,000 several decades ago to ~ 3,200 at present, distributed in 69 protected areas. The number of captive elephants is over 3,500.


Elephas maximus indicus - herd with a juvenile tusker @ Elephant Conservation Centre (ECC) in Sayabouri, Laos:
Laos was historically called the 'land of a million elephants' but now has only $500-600$ in the wild, plus $\sim 450$ in captivity. The ECC rescues elephants that are kept under sub-standard conditions, provides veterinary care, promotes development of herd behaviours, and where possible releases them back to the wild.


Elephas maximus borneensis - prime adult tusker and two females @ Kota Kinabalu Zoo in Sabah, East Malaysia:
The status of elephants on Borneo (called 'pygmy elephants') has been the subject of much debate, but results of genetic studies by Fernando et al. (2003) and Sharma et al. (2018) (see: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-17042-5.pdf) have resulted in their being recognized as a separate sub-species
The population is estimated to be $\sim 2,000$ in the north-eastern regions of Borneo (Sabah, East Malaysia), and 60-80 in southern regions (Kalimantan, Indonesia).


Elephas maximus sumatranus - prime adult tusker and two females @ Elephant Conservation Centre (ECC) in Lampung, Sumatra, Indonesia:
The Sumatran elephant is categorized as 'critically endangered' by IUCN, with less than 1,700 in the wild and $\sim 450$ in captivity. The ECC is part of the Way Kambas National Park system in Lampung and has captive elephants that are used for ecotourism, breeding, and patrolling to prevent human-elephant conflict.


Loxodonta africana - senior adult male @ Savute NP, Botswana:
The population of both species of African elephants is $\sim 415,000$, with Botswana having the highest population of the savannah species at ~ 130,000. The forest species (Loxodonta cyclotis) is found only in Central Africa and is categorized as critically endangered, with an estimated population below 30,000 .


## Loxodonta africana - herd of females and calves @ Chobe NP, Botswana

The river system of Okavango, Savute and Chobe in northern Bostwana is said to support ~ 100,000 elephants. Last year over 330 elephants died from an illness that was later confirmed as being due to a toxin from Cyanobacteria found in water.


## Loxodonta africana - female with calf @ Kruger NP, South Africa

South Africa's elephant population is estimated at $\sim 17,000$, with almost half of this number located in the Kruger NP and the adjacent game reserves. This is one of the largest protected areas for willife in Africa, where the 'Big Five' can be sighted regularly, and extends over $20,000 \mathrm{~km} 2$ (one third the size of Sri Lanka!),

 

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## SARS-CoV-2 ఠఠอరఱఱ


















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©(ర\}ఝુయ : Damas, J., Hughes, G. M., Keough, K. C., Painter, C. A., Persky, N. S., Corbo, M., ... \& Lewin, H. A. (2020). Broad host range of SARS-CoV-2 predicted by comparative and structural analysis of ACE2 in vertebrates. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 117(36), 22311-22322.

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22 VETERINARIAN

Preventing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from humans to wild mammals


This figure was adapted in collabontion with the UCN Bar Sprcialist group. This work by HCN SSC Bmispecialiat Groug is icensed under CCBY NCAND 40













# Attending to injured wild 

Professor Emeritus Indira Nanayakkara Silva



Sedating or tranquilizing, and medically attending to wild animals require the services of qualified and skilled veterinarians who have adequate experience in attending to wild animal cases. Handling an injured animal should be done in a manner which will protect both the animal and the attending people. This is because an injured wild animal is aware of its immobility and the risk of predator attack, and will experience extreme fear when it is approached by humans. Therefore, approaching and injured animal must be done by those who are aware of the above facts. What we normally see in Sri Lanka is people gathering around the animal in masses, shouting and laughing, sometimes followed by household dogs too. All those sounds and the smell/odour of the humans will aggravate the fear in the animal making it difficult to be saved due to psychological trauma in addition to physical trauma. Only a minimum number of persons, appropriately attired, must approach the animal with first-aid boxes and a collapsible stretcher or a box cage.

Animals are conscious beings too. Awareness of animal suffering should be at the centre of our concern for the welfare of injured animals. Animals caught in snares struggle vigorously, causing extensive pain and suffering. Suffering can involve a range of negative feelings, such as anxiety, fear and pain. Snares, whether used for restraining or killing, operate inhumanely and cause severe injuries, pain, suffering, and death of the target or non-target species. As such, the mortality and morbidity of animals caught in snares are high. Safely removing an animal from a snare will be difficult if the animal is struggling and fighting, especially if it is in pain or the snare
is embedded in body tissues. A tightening wire around the neck, or any other body part, can lead to ischaemia (death of cells due to lack of blood) and pressure necrosis of tissues which will not be immediately evident because it can take days to develop and may not respond well to treatment. They may also die while being transported to the treatment centers for further treatment.


Internal injuries may not be immediately detectable and deeper injuries may not be apparent through the animal's fur. If the animal is released (eg: a non-target animal), it may die later-on from injuries. Animals that escape or are released may subsequently die from their injuries or from exertional myopathy (muscle damage) over a period of days or weeks. Animals left in snares for hours get exposed to the elements, to thirst, hunger, further injury and attack by predators. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the severity of injury in an animal caught in a snare or trap.

Facilities for wild animals - Since the presence and severity of injuries of a frightened and/ injured/ or stressed wild animal cannot be adequately assessed in the wild, unless it is moribund, only an experienced Veterinarian can judge the clinical condition and decide on the drug dosages for sedation, based on his or her working experiences with wild
animals in the wild. Veterinarians do not treat only one species of animals (like medical doctors) or even ten species of animals, rather many different species. As such, one veterinarian cannot have expertise on all species on land, air and water. Therefore, Wildlife Veterinarians need to be specialized or trained on different animal groups which require an enhancement of veterinary personnel in the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC). Such trained veterinarians together with a small team of able assistants and a dependable transport facility can attend to the sick anywhere in the country, depending on the type of animal that needs medical attention.

Furthermore, wildlife shelters and rehabilitation centres that are geared to receive sick, injured or orphaned wild animal species are essential in the DWLC to ensure that the animals receive accurate diagnoses and the best possible treatment options. Also, when treating animals, certain species of animals cannot be housed close to each other. Therefore, centers to treat injured or otherwise incapacitated wild animals, posttreatment rehabilitation and returning them back to the wild, need to be established in locations with relatively easy access.


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# Why ero marthe turties dyngo ourshorese 

## Dr. Erandi Pathirana

Never have we been so unfortunate to observe and experience a chain of marine turtle deaths in our seas. At the time of this writing, more than 170 dead marine turtles were reported to have washed ashore. This article looks at the global picture of marine turtles in the face of human impacts on the marine environment and how we should systematically investigate into the cause of death of an individual turtle or a population of marine turtles.

## Why are marine turtles unique?

Marine turtles are a fascinating group of marine reptiles. Unlike most other turtles and tortoises, marine turtles cannot retract their head and limbs into their shells, in threatened situations. They can be found in all oceans except those in the polar regions. During their nesting season, female turtles swim ashore to lay their eggs on sandy beaches. After an incubation period of 50-60 days, baby turtles hatch out, dig through the sand, and crawl to the sea. This is a magical sight which needs to be witnessed by anyone who loves the sea and its wonderful creatures! Being a country, which is globally recognised as one of the few places in the world where marine turtles can be observed in their natural habitat, numerous foreign tourists visit Sri Lanka each year to witness this fascinating behaviour of this special marine creature.

## At present, seven species of sea

 turtles have been reported to exist in our blue planet and Sri Lankan marine waters are home to five out of these seven species, the green turtle, olive ridley turtle, hawksbill turtle, loggerhead turtle and leatherback turtle. Claimed to be the largest out of these five species, the leatherback turtle is critically endangered and is reported to be rare in Sri Lankan waters. Overall, six out of seven species of sea turtles in our world, are listed as vulnerable, endangered, or criticallyendangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. It is important and timely to look at how the existence of these amazing creatures are being threatened and what we can do to prevent them getting extinct from this planet.

## Threats to marine turtle life

To date, several threats have been identified for the existence of marine turtles.Different coastal communities of the world hunt seaturtles as a source of food, adding more pressure on the numbers of this threatened creature. The use of turtle shell in the production of ornaments and the use of turtle-oil in the production of cosmetics and medicine have added to this threat. Many countries have banned the collection of eggs of this animal, however illegal harvest is not rare. According to research carried out

by the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Sri Lanka, collection of marine turtle eggs from the rookeries for human consumption and marketing eggs to marine turtle hatcheries have been identified as major threats to the existence of marine turtles in Sri Lanka. Globally, longline and trawl fishing have long been accused for accidental capture of marine turtles. Thousands of turtles (covering all species) get killed in shrimp trawls, longline fisheries, and great numbers get drowned in gill nets. Among all threats that are faced by
these wonderful marine creatures, marine debris and chemical pollution in the marine environment have caught the greatest attention. Accumulation of plastics in the marine environment is a growing environmental concern. Annually, over 1 million marine animals are estimated to be killed because of plastic debris in our oceans. Marine turtles are particularly vulnerable because of the risk of ingesting plastic debris which can become lethal to these creatures. It is a well-known fact that leatherback turtles cannot distinguish between a jellyfish (which is one of their prey) that is swimming in the sea, from a floating plastic bag. Moreover, entanglement by marine debris, including dis-carded or lost fishing gear and netting materials, and plastic onion sacks have resulted in the loss of many marine turtle lives.

## Mass mortalities of marine turtles in our beaches

Unlike the individual stranding of marine turtles reported in various beaches of the world, mass mortality outbreaks of marine turtles are more alarming and catch the attention of various parties. The recent occurrence of mass stranding of marine turtles in our beaches which caused so much concern, triggered this article. According to the reports of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC), Sri Lanka, an annual average of 5 turtle deaths are usually reported in our shores, excluding the death of baby turtles. In the year 2020, three deaths

turtles were reported before the fire of the vessel MT New Diamond which caught fire in our seas. Fifteen dead turtles were reported on our shores, following this fire. To date, more than 170 dead turtles have been reported on our shores following the devastation of the MV X-Press Pearl vessel. The mystery of dead marine turtles washed ashore, still remains. Is it an aftermath of the fire in X-Press Pearl? If so, what actually has happened to the turtles? What can be the cause of this mass mortality outbreak? What should be our plan to investigate into this matter? It is important to find solid, scientific answers to these questions. Afterall, it is our marine turtle population that is dying.

## Harmful algal blooms (HABs)

Toxic or harmful algal blooms (HAB) have been reported to cause mass mortalities in marine turtles in various parts of the world including Florida, USA, and in the Gulf of Mexico. HABs are thought to have a great impact on marine turtles. A mass stranding of 318 marine turtles was reported in one such outbreak that occurred in the west coast of Florida, USA, during the period from 2005-2006. More than 90\% of both live and dead stranded animals tested positive for the toxin produced by the singlecelled algae Karenia brevis. High concentrations of the algal toxin were recorded in the stomach contents of affected turtles. It was also thought that the turtles inhaled this toxin when they came to the surface for breathing, which was present in the air by the action of wind and waves. Presence of suspected toxic algal blooms around the fire-stricken X-Press Pearl, has been suggested by scientists. However, up to now this has not been confirmed and has not been proved to be associated with the mass turtle stranding in our shores.
dolphins and whales were also reported dead on our shores following this tragic incident of $X$ Press Pearl. Can there be an adverse impact of these hazardous chemicals on our marine turtles? If so, how are we going to investigate this impact? While the impacts of chemical pollution on marine life such as that of whales, seals and fish are well-studied, the threats of chemical contamination of the marine environment on marine turtles are mostly understudied. With the increasing interest and attention in the potential association between seawater contamination and mortality in marine turtle populations, it is of particularly importance to follow correct procedures and collect standard samples from stranded turtles, for toxicologic analysis. Apart from potential, short-term toxicities, bioaccumulation of hormone-mimicking chemicals such as atrazine, lead, zinc and copper have been proposed to alter reproductive hormones (oestrogens and testosterone) in turtles, potentially reducing the reproductive capacity in nesting turtles. Studies on heavy metals such as copper, cadmium, lead, and mercury in marine turtle populations have shown varying levels of these heavy metals depending on the species, region, stage of life cycle and tissue type sampled. Considering the concentration of toxic substances such as heavy metals in the top-level predators (carnivorous fish such as tuna) in the marine food web, the different levels in the marine food web occupied by marine turtles and the long life span of marine turtles, there is a high risk of chemical contaminants present in the marine environment to get accumulated in the body of turtles. This can lead to long-term impacts on marine turtles, such as reduced reproductive performances. This will further aggravate the existing

## Impact of chemical pollution in the marine environment

Besides the possibility of a toxic algal bloom, the X-Press Pearl which was reported to carry loads of hazardous toxic substances and plastic nurdles may have created direct impacts on these already threatened creatures. A variety of fish species,
threats experienced by these animals. Some research has also shown passing down of chemical contaminants to younger generations of turtles, through eggs. Looking back at the recently stranded turtles, marine biologists believe that the majority of the affected turtles to be juveniles and not nesting turtles.

## Legal protection to marine turtle life

With all this background, what measures have been taken to protect this threatened animal population? Marine turtles are protected by law in most countries, including Sri Lanka. Relevant permits should be obtained before carrying out any investigation including post-mortem examinations, on these animals. In Sri Lanka, marine turtles are protected under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance administered by the Department of Wildlife Conservation since March 1, 1938 (amended in July 20, 1972) and the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act of 1996. Independent organizations such as the Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) are actively working on marine turtle conservation strategies through education, research and community participation. Considering the threats faced by marine turtles, it is a challenging task for veterinarians, marine scientists and other responsible parties to investigate the cause or causes of the recent mass mortality outbreaks in marine turtles, within a legal framework.

## Post-mortem examinations

One of the main approaches taken towards solving the mystery of the mass stranding of marine turtles in our beaches, was post-mortem examinations of turtles which is being followed up by various laboratory examinations for further diagnosis. Unfortunately, the diagnosis of the cause of death through post-mortem examinations is hampered by numerous factors.
By the time the dead turtles are found ashore, most had undergone severe post-mortem changes, making it difficult to identify and assess the damages that are related to the true cause of death. This makes it difficult to assess the carcase both by gross
examination and microscopic examination of body tissues of the dead turtles. Nevertheless, the degree of decomposition can be grossly assessed from the external appea-rance of the shell, corneal opacity in the eyes of turtles, colour changes/ darkening and sloughing of the skin, pooling of blood in lower parts (dependent parts) of the body of the turtle, degree of swelling, and odour. While the eyes of a marine turtle can be sunken due to dehydration in a fresh carcase, bulged out eyes were noted in almost all turtle carcases that washed ashore in the past few days, indicating post-mortem changes. It should be noted that veterinarians face practical limitations and difficulties in examining these large marine creatures in the coastal environment. However, all possible investigations were carried out and is being continued, to determine the cause of death of these poor creatures.

## Ingestion of marine plastics

In the past, what observations have been made by veterinarians and marine biologists during postmortem examinations of dead marine turtles? Accidental capture of marine turtles in capture fisheries results in damages to the gut following fishing line ingestion which is visibly evident even without opening up the gut. However, deaths caused by ingestion of marine plastic debris require thorough post-mortem examination before confirming the cause of death. Sometimes, plastic bags protruding from the cloaca/back of the turtle can be observed during preliminary examination of the carcases.


Globally, it has been estimated that about $52 \%$ of all marine turtles have ingested plastic debris in their gut. However, research shows that the amount of plastics that can be recovered from the gut would be greater in animals that have died due to plastic ingestion. On the
other hand, turtles can die due to the impacts of plastic ingestion, even when they have ingested a single item of plastic. This results when the animal's gut gets perforated or obstructed due to the plastic item that it had ingested. Both the structure of the marine turtle gut and the composition of debris that have been ingested by the turtle play a part in mortality caused by plastic ingestion. Unlike most other animals that we know, marine turtles cannot vomit the food/debris that they ingest. As a result, the gut of marine turtle is prone to retain accumulated debris. On the other hand, rather than passing out the ingested plastic item as it is, pieces of soft plastic that were ingested at different times, can get assorted and pass as a single compacted item, leading to obstruction and damage of the gut. While small plastic particles can remain in the gut of a marine turtle up to four months, a plastic sheet can even remain up to six months. Thus, the results of plastic ingestion may be seen long after the plastic item has been ingested.

When attempting to study the gut contents to find out the cause of death of a marine turtle, the contents of the gut can be sieved to extract any plastic present. Marine turtles of different age groups can be exposed to different types of debris. Adults turtles living in the coast might come across larger plastic debris that has recently washed into the ocean. On the other hand, young turtles living in the open sea (pelagic region) might get exposed to smaller fragments that have degraded.

## Routine post-mortem observations

In addition to the observations made on ingested plastics and their damage, marine turtles can exhibit changes in skin colour resulted by infections (red/purple colour skin or bleeding in the scutes (bony plates of the shell of a turtle), burns (dead, sloughing or black skin) and in toxicities (reddening or disc-oloration of the skin). Marine turtles, like other reptiles may show black spots in their liver when their liver cells take in foreign substances. This black colouration may increase when the
amount of foreign materials increases. Tissues taken from freshly dead turtles can be subjected to microscopic examinations in the laboratory (histopathology). Samples from liver, kidneys and lungs are good candidates for identifying any suspected toxicities. These microscopic examinations should be coupled with laboratory testing for any suspected toxins. At the moment, several responsible parties have got involved in carrying out investigations, to identify the real cause of mortality in our marine turtles.

## Way forward

With the ever-increasing amount of pollution and frequent accidents happening in our marine environments, there is an increasing role for veterinarians to play in diagnosing the contribution of various environmental factors to marine aquatic life including marine turtles. Yet there are numerous knowledge gaps that needs to be bridged in order to better understand the impacts of the presentday marine environment, on the health of marine turtles. Overall, a holistic approach involving collaborative research studies is mandatory to solve this riddle of mass mortality of marine turtles. The marine biologists, environmental scientists, oceanographers and chemical scientists should join hands with the veterinary diagnosticians performing post-mortem examinations in marine turtles, to improve our knowledge and to combat the multiple threats faced by this amazing marine creature to ensure their sustaina-bility and preventing their extinction from this blue planet.

Like us, animals too are 'happy' when they are provided with all that is essential for their well-being and when they have the opportunities to express their natural behaviour.

We can say that an animal is in good state of welfare, when they are provided with the correct nutrition, comfortable safe housing, proper veterinary care for disease prevention and treatment so that they are healthy, and when they are in an environment suitable to express their natural behaviour. All animals should be handled with love and care and they should also be free from fear, pain and distress. Their physical and mental needs according to their species should be provided. Whether it is a pet animal or a farm animal or a wild animal, ensuring animal welfare is a top responsibility of all of us. Ultimately, animal welfare is enriched by our own ethical and social values and experiences, hence how we treat animals will be a reflection of our own-selves.

This column focuses on different welfare needs of different animals who are close to us. We are starting this column with an animal loved by people of all ages...Rabbit!
Rabbits are known as a symbol of good luck, cleverness, elegance and beauty.


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## Artwork and Design by

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"for data about cat personalities according to their color https://news.berkeley.edu/2012/10/23/cat-color/
by Ms. P.R. Danthanarayana (Student), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine \& Animal Science, University of Peradeniya.

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Vaporizer,
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[^0]


[^0]:    Wheelchair

