



**O T A R A F O U N D A T I O N**

*Caring for animals and nature*

## **AREAS THAT COULD BE ADDRESSED:**

- All animals feel pain, love, fear and happiness just like we do. Put yourself in the place of an animal and many would find it difficult to hurt them.
- Abuse at domestic level- tying or caging animals for long periods of time can affect them physically as well as mentally. Let your pet be part of your family, chain free and happy and get to know the real joy of owning a pet. If you are tying your pet, you are missing out on all the love they have to offer and creating a life of sorrow for the pet.
- Boycott animal performances – be it the elephant shows at the local zoo or anywhere else in the world. The performance that you see is a result of continuous cruelty. No wild animal should have to perform for our entertainment. Humans are much better than that and wild animals are meant to be free not in a cage for our joy. India and many other countries around the world have banned performances with wild animals, yet in Sri Lanka we continue to have them perform in the Zoo.
- Elephant rides – more and more people are understanding the hardship these animals face their whole life for our fun or a photo opportunity. Is it really worth making an animal suffer for our pleasure? Encourage seeing them in the wild or in a sanctuary rather than chained.
- It is time to see elephants live free of chains. Can you imagine living your life tied in one place where you can barely move? The swaying seen in elephants is to comfort themselves from going mad.
- We take our children to see animals in the zoo but what you are really exposing them to is the horror of imprisoning a living being for a lifetime. The behavior that you see of the animal in the zoo is not their natural behavior. You see depressed animals who have developed behavioral anomalies due to being lonely and caged all their life. It is not education that you experience at the zoo but cruelty. How can we show this to our children?
- Be the voice of the voiceless. Wherever, whenever you see any form of cruelty towards animals, no matter how small it may be, speak up. Be their voice. Your courage to do so will empower more people to join you in defending animals. Teach your children to do so too.
- The Otara Foundation has launched a public appeal, requesting the government to pass the long-pending Animal Welfare Bill. The current outdated bill has very little potential to make a difference in the lives of animals who are abused in different ways. The amended bill that was proposed in 2006 to the parliament is still pending and it would be a great stepping stone if you could help us strengthen our appeal by getting your listeners to spend two minutes of their time to log on and sign the appeal, bringing us that close to a nation that is free of animal abuse. The links are available on [www.otarafoundation.com](http://www.otarafoundation.com)
- Teach children the value of freedom, kindness and compassion towards all living beings. Be the pioneers of fostering a generous and more compassionate society. It is a must to reduce the ongoing tragedies taking place in our society.
- Living beings are born free and no human has the right to trap, cage, tie or abuse their freedom. Children should be taught this and parents must take responsibility in teaching their children the value of freedom. This should ideally be part of school education.