

**PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD ANIMAL DAY
ISLAMABAD; 3RD OCTOBER, 2010**

World Animal Day draws our collective attention to the state of rights endowed on the animals the world over. The Day was dedicated at an ecologist's convention in Florence, Italy in 1931, to highlight the plight of endangered species. Since then, it has grown to encompass all kinds of animal's life and has been widely celebrated around the world. On this very special day, the lives of the animals in all forms are celebrated and events are also planned in the entire world. The World Animal Day 2010 is intended as a day to celebrate for those who care about the animals. The 4th of October was chosen as World Animal Day because this is feast date of supporter saint of the animals and the nature lover, Francis of Assisi.

Nevertheless, World Animal Day has gone further than mere celebrations of a Christian saint. It is currently celebrated by the animal-lovers from different nationalities and political beliefs. It denotes our appreciation of the relationships of the human beings with animals who share our earth and different ways in which animals contribute to our lives. The World Animal Day also provides very special opportunity to ensure caring treatment for the farm animals and also to promote the fortification of habitats, which are residence to wild animals.

Islam attaches great importance to the rights of animals. It has ordained its followers to mete out humane treatment to the animals. It is, therefore, our religious duty to make sure that animals get their due rights and are not exploited in any way. According to a recent research conducted by Georgetown University, a society where animals do not have any rights also fails miserably to treat its citizens well.

Pakistan is blessed with diversified animal resources. It includes farm animals/livestock, pets, birds and wild life etc. The contribution of livestock to national GDP (11.4%) foreign exchange earnings (8.5%) and rural socioeconomic development of the country is significant. The animal welfare issues are being regulated by Livestock Laws and Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1890, Rules 1961 and amendments made in 1981. The Act takes care of various aspects of animal welfare that include transportation of animals, bedding, feeding, watering, and resting for animals etc.

However, it is also obligatory on every one of us to treat animals as a living being in a humane way. The World Animal Day enlightens us about our responsibility to encourage everybody to use this special day to commemorate their love and respect for animals by doing something special to highlight the importance of animals in the world and to involve ourselves with animal welfare organizations for local animal rights.

Government of Pakistan in Ministry of Livestock and Dairy Development assures that it shall encourage every step in order to promote, protect and preserve animal welfare matters for their physical, psychological and environmental/habitat well being.