



JIVA DAYA COMPASSION IN ACTION IN THE UK

Mahavir's message of Live and Let Live, includes not only fellow human beings but all living beings including animals and the environment. This message has been taken up all over the world to varying degrees. Here in the U.K, we have many charities for the prevention of cruelty to animals, to care for injured and abandoned animals and are leaders in campaigns for wild life preservation of endangered animals like tigers, rhino, elephants etc.

You might have heard about the excellent work of animal rescue homes, or panjrapura, run by Jains in India. However, as many of you may be aware, such special animal sanctuaries also exist here in the UK.

Many of these animal sanctuaries care for rescued farm animals (cows, pigs, sheep, hens etc.) that would otherwise have been slaughtered needlessly. For example, dairy cows who, after having endured several traumatic cycles of pregnancies and milking, no longer yield enough milk, and other animals who have become sick but are not treated

It's time for us to help UK Animal Sanctuaries to flourish

because doing so is regarded "commercially unviable" (even if their condition is treatable or curable). Some lucky souls have even been rescued from slaughter for meat.

These wonderful animal sanctuaries provide the constant tender loving care the animals so deserve from humanity and ensure they are allowed to live their lives freely and with the freedom to express their individual personalities. It is at such places that one can really sense the spiritual nature of animals.

Many sanctuaries have open days giving people the chance to visit them and learn about the true nature of animals and our responsibility to care for them rather than butcher them.

Of course, the sanctuaries exist in the first place through the dedication of the few very skilled, determined, hardworking and compassionate people running them. Many sanctuary owners are also strict vegetarians or vegans. In short, these sanctuaries are great examples of Jain values in practice.

Since many do not receive aid from the government, the sanctuaries are in constant need of donations for day-to-day animal feed, maintenance, developing more animal accommodation space and basic survival. The long-term existence of animal sanctuaries, animal welfare charities in the UK, especially post Covid, really depends on support from individuals and communities like the Jains. In fact, this is an opportunity for the Jain community to lead the way. Let's lead the way in ending the perpetual state of crisis that these sanctuaries find themselves in and encouraging them to flourish.

