## Animal welfare event concludes

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The animal welfare fortnight activities organised by the state animal husbandry department concluded on Tuesday. Minister for animal husbandry J Chinchu Rani inaugurated the concluding session. State wide debates, seminars, essay writing competitions, pencil drawing competitions were held as part of the event. Balaji Chandrasekhar, project lead of Karnataka based 'Mission Rabies' took part in the seminar held as part of the function. He described in detail the importance of anti-rabies vaccination.

"To vaccinate 95 out of every 100 dogs is the only way for rabies prevention," he said. He cited the example of Goa and said that the mission rabies implemented in 2014 was successful and by 2022 there was not a single case of human rabies in Goa.

"In Goa, rabies awareness was included in text books of class VI students. Over 1 lakh awareness sessions on rabies prevention were organised for children and that itself played a key role in preventing rabies infections," he said.

Chinchu Rani also released a handbook for the training programme of livestock inspectors on the occasion. She said that society should be compassionate towards animals and that is the best way to ensure welfare of animals.

The awareness campaign was held from January 15. It aimed at creating awareness in society on compassionate behaviour towards animals, spreading awareness on laws related to animal welfare and animal upkeep and to prevent circumstances that lead to cruelty towards animals.