

March 21, 2015

## Wandering on the road, they pose threat to motorists

*Some accidents are attributed to the PRESENCE OF ANIMALS*

For motorists, there are several problems during peak traffic hours — congestions, delays because of narrow roads, and accident risk because of violation of rules.

It is also common to find motorists struggling to avoid hitting animals such as cows, horses or dogs. Some accidents are attributed to the PRESENCE OF ANIMALS wandering on the roads. Two weeks ago, four cars rammed into each other near Sungam Junction, when the person riding the first car tried to avoid hitting a dog that ran across the road.

Though there were no injuries to anyone in the vehicles, two cars were badly damaged in the accident. But, there have been incidents where the motorists were injured or have lost their lives in such accidents.

Some police personnel, who are no exemption to such accidents, said that most accidents involving animals are not brought to the notice of the police. They felt that it could be either because there was not much damage to vehicles, the accident was minor or the motorists might not want to prefer a police complaint.

Mini Vasudevan of Humane Animal Society expressed concern that animals too were victims of accidents.

“We receive three or four calls a day to attend to animals that are injured in road accidents in the city. In most cases dogs are involved,” she said and added that these calls excluded deaths and other injuries to animals that did not come to their notice.

She said that their organisation has petitioned the District Collector to revive the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) so that heavy fines could be imposed on owners of abandoned animals.

District Collector Archana Patnaik said that the SPCA has been revived, but there is difficulty in imposing a fine on stray animals for which the owners' identities are unknown. She added that a couple of NGOs working on animal welfare have volunteered to rescue and take care of some of the stray animals.

(Reporting by

M.K. Ananth)