

Animal activists to go on a compassion 'cruisade'

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Coimbatore has always been a step ahead when it comes to campaigning for animal rights and welfare. The latest we hear is that the city is gearing up to host an animal welfare programme called Compassion Crusade and spread the message, 'Living Free.' The event is being conducted by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection

Organisations (FIAPO), the apex animal protection organization and a collective voice of the animal protection organizations from the country.

Rhea Nair, co-ordinator of the Coimbatore edition of the Crusade, informs, "The Compassion Crusade of FIAPO will be travelling to four cities in the south-Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Chennai and Hyderabad. The team will arrive in the city on August 31. The Coimbatore crusade will be a three –day affair from August 31 to September 2. The FIAPO team will conduct special workshops for animal activists and enthusiasts in the city, in which they will be taught about animal laws, rights and the responsibilities of animal activists. Outreach programmes will be held at educational institutions in the city over the three days, where they will spread awareness about animal welfare. There will be a leafleting session as well at the popular places in the city and a special boot camp on the last day of the campaign. This will be to promote veganism and spread awareness about its benefits. The crusade members will try to reach out to the maximum number of people through these programmes."

Mini Vasudevan, managing trustee of the animal welfare organization Humane Animal Society, who will be taking part in the boot camp, tells us, "The idea of the tour is to spread awareness about the way animals are treated in our country. This includes the way hens are stocked in poultry farms and animals are taken to slaughter houses. The campaign aims at spreading awareness about all kinds of animal abuse. The tour also tries to drive home the message that animals have the right to live a life of dignity. Once in the city, the FIAPO team will work with the animal welfare organizations here and reach out to the public."

The event is open to the public. "All those who want to contribute to the cause of animal welfare can be part of the event. There will be a special boot camp for the general public as well," says Rhea.