



Bringing Awareness to the Suffering of Animals

Dharma Voices for Animals Needs Your Eyes and Ears

Dharma Voices for Animals (DVA) gives voice to those who cannot speak for themselves - animals who are farmed, eaten, experimented on, and otherwise abused. Unfortunately, Buddhist organizations and dharma centers- monasteries, retreat centers and temples- often unwittingly contribute to animal suffering through their choices in food, cleaning products, toiletries, and general policies.

DVA is a nonprofit organization committed both to practicing the teachings of the Buddha (the Dharma) and to speaking out when animal suffering is supported by the actions of those in Dharma communities and by the policies of Dharma centers.

We want to be the voice of the animals who cannot speak our language and are unable to ask, “Why are you paying people to do this to me?” or “Why are you supporting my suffering?” We want to support those who are willing to speak out about the harm we cause other sentient beings when we eat them, use their body parts as clothing and in other ways, or use household and personal hygiene products that are tested on animals. While DVA recognizes the challenges of living in a complex, modern society, we wish to promote the choices that provide the greatest reduction of animal suffering. It is our intention to be inclusive in honoring the different views of those who sincerely intend to minimize the suffering of animals.

DVA wishes to engage collaboratively and constructively with as many Buddhist institutions and organizations as possible to suggest that they adopt compassionate policies and to encourage them to put a stop to any practices that condone or support cruelty to animals.

To accomplish this, we need YOU to be DVA’s Eyes and Ears!

Whenever you attend a Buddhist center, participate in an event, or attend a Dharma retreat, please consider taking with you a copy of the DVA Eyes & Ears Review, complete it to the best of your ability, and send it to us. We will follow up with the organization.

Reviewer’s Contact Information

We cannot accept an anonymous review but we will not share or use your name without your permission. DVA may follow up with you for additional information.

Name:

Phone:

email:

Reviewer’s relationship to the organization/center:

Buddhist Organization/Center Information

Institution:

Address:

Principal Contact:

Position:

Phone:

email:



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Eyes and Ears Questionnaire

Dharma Teachings

Are Dharma teachings on non-harming and compassion toward animals offered?

- Yes No

Do the teachers identify themselves as “vegetarian” or “vegan?”

- Yes No

Are materials offered that teach non-harming and compassion toward animals?

- Yes No

NOTE: DVA offers on our website a variety of written materials, a documentary film, and other resources to provide guidance on how to incorporate teachings of non-harming and compassion toward animals into our daily lives.

Food

Is there a clear policy on food served or shared?

- Yes No

If so, what is it?

Is flesh from animals, such as cows, pigs, chickens, or fishes and other animals who live in water, served at meals?

- Never Every Meal At least one meal per day A few meals per week
 Other:

Are dairy products served?

- Never Every Meal At least one meal per day A few meals per week
 Other:

Are eggs served?

- Never Every Meal At least one meal per day A few meals per week
 Other:

Is honey served?

- Never Every Meal At least one meal per day A few meals per week
 Other:

Is vegetarian fare always available?

- Yes No

Is it necessary to make special arrangements for vegetarian fare?

- Yes No

Is vegan fare always available?

- Yes No

Is it necessary to make special arrangements for vegan fare?

- Yes No

Is food storage available for guests/visitors?

- Yes No

Are there clearly posted rules about what foods may be brought to and consumed on the premises?

- Yes No

If so, are guests allowed to consume flesh from animals on the premises?

- Yes No

Additional Comments:



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Eyes and Ears Questionnaire

Toiletries *For example: soap, lotion, shampoo, hair conditioner*

Is there a policy regarding the institution's use of cruelty-free toiletries?

- Yes No

If toiletries are offered at no charge or sold, are they cruelty-free?

- Yes No

Please provide examples of toiletries offered or sold and whether or not each is cruelty-free:

Are any guidelines provided for what toiletry products may be brought into the institution?

- Yes No

Additional Comments:

Cleaning Products *For example: floor, bathroom, kitchen, and window cleaners*

Is there a policy regarding the use of cruelty-free cleaning products?

- Yes No

If there is a policy, is it being followed?

- Yes No

Please provide examples of cleaning products used and whether or not each is cruelty-free:

Additional Comments:

Land and Facilities Management

Does the organization/center have explicit policies on insects in the dining room, small animals burrowing into buildings, etc.?

- Yes No

If there are such policies, are they clearly posted?

- Yes No

In your estimation, are these policies observed?

- Yes No

Are insects and rodents exterminated?

- Yes No

Are silhouettes or other methods/devices displayed on windows to warn birds?

- Yes No

If the center is on a larger property, are hunting and fishing permitted?

- Yes No

Is there sufficient lighting on the walkways so the stepping on insects and other small animals can be avoided?

- Yes No

Additional Comments: