

Audio Doc Script: "The abuse of stray dogs"
Monica Mahany
Wednesday, May 17

This is an audio documentary about the abuse that stray dogs face in the streets of Egypt. Also, this documentary shows the people's culture towards that abuse.

NAT sound: Fade IN: Dogs barking

MUSIC: FADE IN: Sergey Cheremisinov - Dont Lie To Inner Child (0-2:20 mins)

You hear this voice everyday in the streets, you may ignore them or help them. But few people leave them alone without causing any harm.

Stray animals suffer everyday in the Egyptian streets. According to the Egyptian streets newspaper, in 2007 and early 2013, a mass shooting

SFX: Fade IN: Gunshot

SFX: Fade OUT: Gunshot

NAT sound: Fade OUT: Dogs barking

of stray dogs took place in Egypt. With hundreds of animals dead and their blood left to rot on the streets.

One humane solution to the overpopulation of the dogs is the TNR which is "Trap, Neuter, and Release". It is a surgery that has an impact on dog's behavior and prevents the reproduction of dogs and cats. However, it depends on how the culture will accept it.

Noor Diab explains more about the culture and the TNR.

Noor Diab: "So, in a community for example, if I go to them and tell them, ok I will solve the problem for you. I'm going to take the dogs, sterilize them and return them back. Usually they tell me no, we don't want them back. Because dogs bark, the dogs are territorial; also dogs are territorial animals. So, they protect their areas. Dogs can

sometimes attack people and there are hospital records of a lot of dog bites; people get bitten all the times. It's not the dog's fault; It's the nature of the dog. But still people don't want animals in the streets. So, trap, neuter, and release is only possible in areas where the community accepts this kind of intervention." (:51)

And this is how Noor Diab started his journey

Noor Diab: "I originally started as a consultant for the society of protection of animals, doing a survey for the number of stray dogs in the streets of greater Cairo. Then, I founded animal welfare association for research and education; it is the first non-profit organization for animal welfare. Then I became the former general manager of the society of protection of animal's rights in Egypt." (:31)

MUSIC: FADE OUT: Sergey Cheremisinov - Dont Lie To Inner Child

MUSIC: FADE IN: The Owl - Rainy Sun (1-2:10)

For over 20 years now poisoning has been used by the government, according to Al Ahram newspaper and it is still ineffective to the overpopulation problem.

And according to PETA Organization, acts of cruelty to animals are symptomatic of a deep mental disturbance. Hala Abdel Hak, psychology professor at AUC, talks about the reason behind the existence of animal abuse

Hala Abdel Hak: "If I am as a child being beaten by my parents or insulted by my teachers and so on, I have to vent that anger. And the most vulnerable group on the street are animals. So, it is just a way because you are being bullied by a parent by teachers by schoolmates, so you bully other animals. So, it can be also because of the environment. It's not that you are born an animal hater or a person who is abusive, not necessarily at all." (:32)

Dogs and cats were considered part of the family for Ancient Egyptians. The killer of the animal has to die in any case in the most cruel way, whether he killed the animal on purpose or by mistake. But history has changed.

MUSIC: FADE OUT: The Owl - Rainy Sun

MUSIC: FADE IN: Kyle Presto - Ice Where Your Parents Love Should Be (46 secs)

Diab: "There is one case I remember of a small dog, that was completely blind. He lost his sight because the owner beaten very hardly, kicked him on his face. Yet he was still very kind towards humans; he still wanted to play and be happy. The owner originally kept him in a bathroom for so long. He came to the shelter, he was completely filthy. You couldn't tell that he is a dog because of all the feces on his fur." (:42)

Acid, poison, gun, and knife attacks are common suffer for animals. Also, kittens and puppies are thrown into the Nile or left in plastic bags on trash. Alexandra Gazis, another psychology professor at AUC, introduced how we can have an impact on reducing this abuse.

MUSIC: FADE OUT: Kyle Presto - Ice Where Your Parents Love Should Be

MUSIC: FADE IN: The Owl - Rainy Sun

Alexandra Gazis: "You teach children since they are young how to have courtesy for the animals and how to have courtesy for other weak creatures. When you raise children in this way, they will grow up having this embedded in their personality. So, they will start doing it automatically." (:18)

NAT Sound: Fade IN: Animals in shelter

Most of the shelters like ESMA provide the stray animals, especially the physically deformed ones, another chance of survival by sending them abroad to have normal lives there instead of the shelters.

NAT Sound: Fade OUT: Animals in shelter

This documentary was produced by Monica Mahany for the audio production course at the American University in Cairo. Taught by professor Kim Fox.

I would like to thank my interviewees: Noor Diab, professor Hala Abdel Hak and professor Alexandra Gazis

Music used in this documentary are don't lie to inner child by Sergey, rainy sun by the Owl, and ice where your parents love should be by Kyle Preston

MUSIC: FADE OUT: The Owl - Rainy Sun