

# News Shorts

## Marwar Trust Works to Eliminate Rabies in India

In India, an estimated 30,000 people die annually from rabies and the number of stray dogs is higher. Because of cultural and religious attitudes in the country, stray dogs are often encouraged in the community; however socioeconomic factors prevent them from receiving adequate veterinary care. The result is a population of unhealthy dogs, which fosters the spread of rabies.

The mission of Marwar Animal Protection Trust, a charity founded in 2003 by Federico Spinola, is to improve the welfare of strays and eliminate rabies from dogs in India. In 2004, the Marwar Trust launched an Animal Birth Control (ABC)/rabies vaccination program for stray dogs in the city of Jodhpur in northwest India. Nearly 20,000 of Jodhpur's estimated 45,000 stray dogs now have been neutered and vaccinated. The Trust will evaluate the health status of stray dogs in the city before and after implementation of the program and this year, a rabies diagnostics laboratory directed by internationally recognized rabies expert Dr. Alex Wandeler will open in Jodhpur. Wandeler, an advisor to the World Health Organization, will lead the lab in diagnosing and documenting rabies cases in Jodhpur. This lab, the first of its kind in the Indian state of Rajasthan, will serve as a model for future ABC/vaccination campaigns, with the goal of eliminating rabies throughout India.

For more information about the Marwar Trust, please visit [www.marwartrust.org](http://www.marwartrust.org).



## Minnesota Federated Humane Societies Files Writ Against Proposed Dog Kennel

The Minnesota Federated Humane Societies (MFHS), a nonprofit corporation that enforces animal cruelty laws in Richfield, MN, filed a writ of certiorari with the Minnesota Court of Appeals to review the Morrison County board's decision to issue a conditional use permit to a proposed dog kennel, according to a report in the *Brainerd Dispatch* newspaper.

Attorney Timothy Shields, on behalf of MFHS, asked the court to review the county board's decision, to reject the permit issued by the county and to prevent the dog kennel operation from moving forward.

The permit also allows the dogs to be physically debarked, which the animal protection group alleges is inhumane and a violation of Minnesota animal cruelty laws. After

receiving hundreds of letters and phone calls, the board instead recommended electrical shock collars, which the MFHS also opposes. Additionally, the organization believes the proposed kennel, intended for 600 dogs, would not allow adequate room for exercise, a potential violation of animal welfare laws. In response to the lawsuit, Morrison County has enacted a one-year moratorium on the construction of dog kennels, according to attorney Shields.

## Diamond Pet Foods Recalls Product

Diamond Pet Foods recalled 19 varieties of product earlier this year after the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) reported that at least 76 dogs are believed to have died after eating the contaminated food.

Diamond recalled the dog and cat food after tests revealed high levels of aflatoxin, a naturally occurring toxic chemical that comes from a fungus found on corn and other grains that causes severe liver damage in animals.

Customers who purchased the product are instructed to stop using it and return it to their retailer immediately. Both the FDA and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture have launched investigations. The dates under review are "Best By 01-March-07" through "Best By 11-June-07".

According to MSNBC, Diamond has promised to reimburse pet owners for vet bills and other costs connected with the aflatoxin poisoning.