

Put animal welfare on school timetable

Campaigners urge animal welfare lessons in Bahrain schools

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Animal welfare should be taught in Bahrain's primary schools to help prevent pet neglect and abandonment, the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA) has urged.

BSPCA Chairman Mahmoud Faraj told The Daily Tribune that children should learn from an early age how to feed, handle and care for animals responsibly, including the risks of overfeeding.

The society has approached the Education Ministry more than 16 times since 2014 to propose adding animal welfare to the school curriculum, Faraj said.

He said even a single lesson could help build greater responsibility and compassion towards animals, adding that the society was ready to provide teaching material from international animal welfare organisations.

The call comes amid growing pet ownership in Bahrain, which Faraj said had also been accompanied by cases of animals being mistreated or abandoned after owners lost interest in them.

He said lessons could help children understand that

owning a pet is a long-term responsibility, while also encouraging kindness towards animals in the wider community.

Faraj said Bahrain could become one of the first Gulf states to introduce animal welfare formally into school curriculum. He

pointed to programmes in countries including Finland and Australia, as well as school initiatives in the UAE and Qatar.

He also said teaching animal welfare would reinforce Islamic values of kindness and mercy towards animals.



Other countries already teach the subject in schools. In Finland, animal welfare appears in environmental studies for pupils in Grades 3 to 6 and biology in Grades 7 to 9, while animal ethics and rights are covered later. In New South Wales, Australia, secondary pupils taking Agricultural Technology learn about animals' physical and behavioural needs and proper care. In the Gulf, the Ras Al Khaimah Animal Welfare Centre in the UAE has run school programmes since 2011, while Doha College in Qatar says animal welfare themes are included in its curriculum and school activities.

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GCC, China discuss stronger ties and regional security

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Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Chinese officials discussed ways to strengthen their strategic partnership, with regional security and energy high on the agenda.

Bahrain's Acting Head of the GCC Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Nawaf Abdullah Al Matouq, chaired the meeting

at the GCC General Secretariat headquarters in Riyadh.

Officials reviewed political and security developments in the region, maritime and energy security, and efforts to combat terrorism and extremism.

The meeting underscored the GCC and China's shared commitment to closer dialogue and coordination in support of regional stability, development and common interests.



Bahrain health sector pushes digital data tools to improve decision-making

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Bahrain's health authorities are expanding digital systems to give policymakers better access to health data and improve monitoring and decision-making across the sector.

Supreme Council of Health Chairman Lt Gen Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, accompanied by Health Minister Dr Jaleela bint Al Sayed Jawad Hasan, reviewed new digital projects developed by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA).

The review covered updates to the Madar system and Drug Tracking System, including data



on medical devices and medicines, as well as NHRA Contact Centre performance indicators and the National Accreditation Programme.

The accreditation system provides data on hospitals and health institutions and their compliance with approved standards.

Dr Jaleela stressed the importance of integrating data and digital technologies to monitor performance and improve services, while NHRA CEO Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Ansari said the initiatives form part of the authority's digital transformation efforts to strengthen regulatory efficiency.

Are you raising a child — or a second chance?

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Sometimes, we find ourselves quietly angry with our children.

Because they are shy. Because they are not at the top of their class. Because



Tuqa Marhoon,
Certified
Parenting Coach

they struggle with a social skill we think they should have mastered.

But before correcting the child, parenting coach Tuqa Mar-

hoon says parents should pause and ask a more uncomfortable question:

Are we angry for the child's sake—or because our child is not fulfilling our own dreams?

One of the biggest traps in parenting, Marhoon said, is trying, often without realising it, to make children into versions

of ourselves—or using them to repair what we believe we failed to achieve in our own childhoods.

The pattern becomes easier to recognise once it is named.

If we are afraid of what people will say, we may pressure our child to be perfect. If we were denied an opportunity

growing up, we may push our child toward the same opportunity, even when it is not what they want.

What makes this difficult is that almost nobody does it deliberately.

“We do not wake up in the morning and decide that today we will impose our dreams on

our child,” Marhoon said.

Instead, parents carry expectations, fears and ready-made pictures of what they hope their children will become.

And sometimes, without meaning to, those expectations leave little room for the child to decide who they want to be.