

Buddhist master visits animal clinic

The delegation from the roof of the world builds a hospital for animals in the Himalayas and asks the Norderstedter veterinarians for advice

Michael Schick

NORDERSTEDT:

In this case an unusual picture was shown to the doctors and their staff: Dressed in red robes a delegation from the roof of the world visited one of the biggest private animal hospitals in Germany. H.E. Thuksey Rinpoche, master of the Buddhist Drukpa teachings, had shown and explained to him at the Norderstedter animal clinic Magunna, how a modern treatment facility should be equipped and is lead.



The high-ranking guest manages an asylum for animals in need in the Indian Ladakh, the “Live To Rescue”-project, which is to obtain also a clinic now.

“The Buddhist master is a very impressive person”

Professor Rafael Nickel, animal clinic Magunna

In conversation with the head of the clinic, professor Rafael Nickel, the Buddhist Drukpa master told about that animals count little in the Himalayas, by far would not get the compassion and appreciation as in Germany. The people in the sparsely populated and forbidding area with 3000 meter high valleys and several seven-thousanders are poor and are sufficiently concerned with organizing their own life. Many stray dogs are living on the streets.

They would get hit by cars, suffer spine fractures, which require immediate surgeries. Limbs have to be amputated. Veterinarians are coming from far away—sometimes the help comes too late. To experience this is difficult for Thuksey Rinpoche. He most wants to stand himself at the operating table, so that the animals quickly get back on their feet. “All religions are talking about love, compassion, peace and harmony, but many people don’t act

accordingly”, he said. “We try to set an example for the population in the Himalayas, also animals need compassion, and this means to act accordingly.” The project “Live To Rescue”, which is part of the worldwide humanitarian network “Live To Love”, is not only about to appropriately and medically take care of hurt or sick animals. The population has to be educated, the animals have to be vaccinated and spayed, street dogs placed and their mass killings prevented.

The contact between the Norderstedter veterinarians and the high-ranking representative of the Buddhist teachings came about via private relations. H. E. Thuksey Rinpoche, representative of the 12th Gyalwang Drukpa, had traveled from

North of India to Hamburg, to teach the devotees of his teachings a certain meditation practice at the Drukpa center. Rinpoche wanted to use the visit to expand his knowledge about modern veterinary medicine and to equip the already existing

admission ward accordingly. And there the name Magunna was mentioned by people around him – the staff of the renowned and biggest animal clinic in the North showed themselves open for the visit of the man from the Himalayas.



The doctors are in action almost round the clock

The president of “Live To Love Germany”, Gianna Wabner, accompanied the delegation. Host Rafael Nickel led the visitors through the entire clinic. These showed themselves impressed by

the professional features with computer tomograph, magnetic resonance tomograph, x-ray-laser equipment and endoscopic processes. The doctors and the staff of almost 90 are in action

almost round the clock, to take care of small animals. Budding veterinarians are trained and educated in these rooms.

“This is a very impressive personality”, said Nickel. He also liked that the guest from the mountains wants to allow animal welfare in his homeland a bigger significance, get injured animals from the streets and treat them. More than 200 four-legged animals are treated in the clinic there

– even for the team of one of the biggest animal clinics an unimaginable number. “That would be unthinkable here”, says Nickel. The Drukpa master invited the doctors from Norderstedt to Ladakh. He emphasized how much he needs the advice and the training

from experts. Maybe a bridge of cooperativeness from Norderstedt to the Himalayas develops soon: Because in the clinic are several veterinarians, who want to support projects far away. “Our doctors consistently take part in international animal protection projects”, says Nickel.

A colleague has already expressed interest, to want to help build the clinic on the roof of the world.

Rinpoche has finished his visit to Hamburg by now. He gave the students of the Wilhelm-Gymnasium an understanding to stand up for the society and the preservation of the earth according to the respective possibilities and interests.

The visit of the children's hospice Sternenbrücke (star bridge) was about impermanence, the value of life and the family as a strong tie – in the Asian culture it is a given, in contrast to Western culture, that in emergencies the family

stands by the side of relatives.

More than four million followers worldwide

The Drukpa order is one of the schools of Tibetan Buddhism. It looks back on an over 800 years heritage and has developed to one of the most important Buddhist schools of the entire Himalaya region. There are centers in many European countries, in North- and South America as well as in the Asian area. The European center is in Plouray/France. More than four million people worldwide are among the followers. Central concern of the Drukpa order is the practical application of the Buddhist teachings to daily life. The worldwide initiative "Live To Love" attends to humanitarian projects. Focuses are: Education, environment - and animal protection, worldwide gender equality, medical help and acute crisis interventions, preservation of cultural heritage.

www.drukpa-hamburg.org

Caption 1: Gianna Wabner of "Live To Love" accompanies the Buddhist delegation from Ladakh at the visit of the Norderstedter animal clinic Magunna

Caption 2: Professor Raphael Nickel led Drukpa master H.E. Thuksey Rinpoche through the practice rooms and explained to the guest the modern diagnosis and therapeutic devices

Pictures Agnes Forsthuber