

## Standing up for animal rights



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KATHMANDU: In order to ensure the rights of animals, animal right activists all over the world celebrated the 79th World Animal Day with different events on October 4. Similarly, institutions and individuals working for animal rights in Nepal also marked the day participating in a walkathon 'Walk 4 Animals' organised by Animal Nepal and other organisations.

Students from Ullen's School, Himalayan College of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Saathi Shelter, volunteers from Roots and Shoots as well as Animal Nepal took part in the walkathon that started early in the morning from Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City Office. The rally made its way towards GAA Hall through Pulchowk, Kupondole, Thapathali, Tripureshwor and Jamal.

After the rally an event was organised at GAA Hall where students spoke about the need for improved condition for all animals including pets, wildlife and animals used for labour.

"We want to launch a movement for animals led by students as Nepal faces many challenges when it comes to animal welfare," said Pramada Shah, Volunteer Director of Animal Nepal. Mahesh Sharma, Campaign Coordinator of Animal Welfare Network Nepal added, "We are working to pressurise the government and authorities concerned to pass Animal Welfare Act as Nepal lacks any legal provision regarding animal rights. Thus animals are deprived of their rights."

Meanwhile, winners of the essay competition held last year were handed over prizes at the event. Bishwo Prasad Poudel won the first prize while Samrida and Govinda Subedi won the second and third prizes for their essay on the theme 'Ragat eutai ho, dukha pani'.

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