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## David Cameron Recognises Barnard Castle Vet For Work With Stray Dogs In Sri Lanka

(asianmirror.lk) The work of a County Durham vet who founded a charity for sick dogs in Sri Lanka has been recognised by the Prime Minister. Janey Lowes, of Barnard Castle, launched WECare Worldwide after witnessing the suffering of the country's stray dogs while on holiday in 2014.

On her return, the 27-year-old decided she wanted to take action and managed to set up the charity with a £10,000 donation from her bosses at Westway Veterinary Group, in Newcastle. Lowes, along with a small team of locally trained vets and UK volunteers, have so far neutered, vaccinated and treated thousands of diseased and neglected strays in the country, which is home to about three million roaming dogs, many of which are suffering from mange, tumours, broken bones, wounds, malnutrition and diseases.

Her work is helping to eliminate rabies in the animal and human population, which is a serious problem for Sri Lanka where the disease kills thousands every year.

Lowes has inspired other vets to join her and

volunteer for WECare, while a team of supporters also regularly hold fundraising events back in the UK to keep the project running.

The former Nottingham University student plans to remain in Sri Lanka and is focused on raising £300,000 to build the country's first dog hospital dedicated to street dogs.

Now David Cameron has congratulated Lowes by naming her in his daily Points of Light awards which recognise outstanding individual volunteers and people who are making a change in their community.



Cameron said: "Janey has shown true compassion by creating a charity that cares for sick and injured animals in Sri Lanka. "She has undoubtedly changed the fate of scores of vulnerable animals by protecting them from disease and providing much-needed care.

"I am recognising Janey as a Point of Light, not only for the positive impact she's had through helping animals in need, but also for the countless

(Contd: on P4)

## Laws soon to ban animal sacrifices

(dailymirror.lk) The Ministry of Rehabilitation, Resettlement, Prison Reforms and Hindu Religious Affairs is expected to submit a Cabinet paper next week seeking to introduce legislation banning all forms of animal sacrifices at Hindu temples. The Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs Department has already drafted the legislation which has been endorsed by the Legal Draftsman's Department. On earlier occasions several protests were held opposing animal sacrifice as part of religious rituals. The Department said the practice of sacrificing animals at Hindu Temples in the Northern Sri Lanka, especially in the Districts of Jaffna and Puttalam was continuing despite the protests by several organizations and well-known personalities raising their voices against such practices.

"Animal sacrifices are usually carried out in village temples for local deities or clan deities like Amman, Bairavar, Muniyappar, Kaattha Virayar, Aiyappan, Veerapaththirar, Paththirakali Amman.

These deities are said to be 'guardian lords' of villages and villagers have developed a tradition of sacrificing, cows, goats and cockerels to appease the wrath of the deities. Villagers believe that sacrificing animals, called 'Bali' means "tribute offering or oblation" and often practiced for no rhyme or reason. "Bali" among other things refers to the blood oblation of an animal and is known as "Irattha Bali" among Jaffna villagers.

In Hindu precepts, there is no mention of these types of "Bali" or ritual sacrifices practiced in many temples," the Department said. (Kelum Bandara)

## Mathews

CONT FROM P1

...The English bowlers bowled really well."

Reflecting on what inspired them to come out of their shell Mathews said, "We've talked about everything possible to get everything back. It's just the character we talked about. We talked about our character and the fight. We've been talking a lot about it, but unfortunately we didn't show it on the field.

"I thought we started showing it in the second innings while we were batting. We had a brilliant first day. We caught all our catches. But unfortunately we started off day two by letting Moeen (Ali) and Chris Woakes off the hook. Then we had a really bad day towards the end of the second day – almost getting bowled out. We had to fight really hard. All the batters worked really hard in the nets every single day before the start. We worked hard with the coaches and that was pleasing."

Mathews said the way Herath batted the other batsmen could take a leaf out of his notebook. "Rangana's become a proper no. 8 for us over the past one-and-a-half years," said Mathews. He's been scoring and hanging in there. If I recall a couple of years ago at Headingley he batted with me and got 49. He's been giving his best with the bat and ball for us over the last couple of years. Every day he's been trying to get better. Hopefully

he can continue that." Mathews said that he was disappointed with the batting in the first innings because the wicket was much better than they got at Headingley.

"That's why I was very disappointed. It wasn't a 100-run wicket. There was much less grass than Headingley. It was not spinning much. It had a little bit of lateral movement, but there were no demons in the wicket. We could have got at least 250 on that wicket to give ourselves a chance in this game."

Following Sri Lanka's magnificent fight back England captain and coach both expressed the same views and said that Sri Lanka cannot be taken for granted. "It's hard for the Sri Lankan batters in one sense, but they are very good players, and most of the time on flat wickets you have to work very hard against them," said England captain Alastair Cook. "Credit to Sri Lanka, the way they batted in the second innings, and it shows how hard you have to work for Test match wins. It was only two years ago that they beat us at Headingley, so we shouldn't take anything for granted." England coach Trevor Bayliss said: "Any time you can win two Tests in a row and win a series, wrapping it up after two matches, is a fantastic effort. The wicket flattened out and the Sri Lankans showed some of the fight that they're quite capable of. They've got some very good players in their team. Yes, they've got some young players but we certainly can't take it for granted in the third match."

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