

## Annual Championship Dog Show



Haus Mailand Figo, the German Shepherd dog who won the title - Best in Show with his owner Manisha Wimalasekera while the trophies are being displayed

The 72nd All Breeds Sporting Group, Various types of breeds such as Boarbools, Rottweilers, Boxers, Bull Mastiffs, Caucasian Shepherds, German Shepherds & Great Danes took part in these different categories.

The competitions of the dog show were judged by Tan Oo Hock as the Malaysia International All Breeds Judge.

From the four finalists chosen, Haus Mailand Figo, the German Shepherd won the title Best in Show. Manisha Wimalasekera the owner of the winning dog received the Browns - Eukanuba Trophy & a supply of dog food continuously for three months courtesy of Eukanuba upon the championship.

Speaking on the occasion Chaminda Edirivickama, General Manager of General Trading mentioned that, "We were happy to sponsor the Championship Dog Show organised annually by the Kennel Association."

The product Eukanuba is a complete balanced nutritional diet which makes a good dog great."

The event was sponsored by EUKANUBA, the dog food brand marketed by Brown & Company PLC.



Other participants of the Championship Dog Show.

# Polar bear

## Largest predator

Pandula Caldera

The polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) is a bear native to the Arctic Ocean and its surrounding seas. The world's largest predator found on land, an adult male weighs around 400-680 kg (880-1,500 lb), while an adult female is about half that size. Although it is closely related to the brown bear, it has evolved to occupy a narrow ecological niche, with many body characteristics adapted for cold temperatures, for moving across snow, ice, and open water, and for hunting the seals which make up most of its diet. As it can hunt consistently only from sea ice, the polar bear spends much of the year on the frozen sea, although most polar bears are born on land.

The polar bear is classified as a vulnerable species. Of the 19 recognized polar bear subpopulations, five are declining, five are stable, two are increasing, and seven have insufficient data. For decades, unrestricted hunting raised international concern for the future of the species; populations have rebounded after controls and quotas began to take effect. For thousands of years, the polar bear has been a key

figure in the material, spiritual, and cultural life of Arctic indigenous peoples, and the hunting of polar bears remains important in their cultures.

The IUCN now lists global warming as the most significant threat to the polar bear, primarily because the melting of its sea ice habitat reduces its ability to find sufficient food. Sea ice melting will also cause changes in their mating, and traveling patterns.

The IUCN states, "If climatic trends continue polar bears may become extirpated from most of their range within 100 years." On May 14, 2008, the United States Department of the Interior listed the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The bear family, Ursidae, is believed to have split off from other *carnivora*s about 38 million years ago. The Ursidae subfamily originated approximately 4.2 million years ago. According to both fossil and DNA evidence, the polar bear diverged from the brown bear, *Ursus arctos*, roughly 200,000 years ago.

The oldest known polar bear fossil is less than 100,000 years old. Fossils show that between ten to twenty thousand years ago, the polar bear's molar teeth changed significantly from those of the brown bear. Polar bears are thought to have diverged from a population of brown bears that became isolated during a period of glaciation in



Ravindhu Mahendra

## Green Fingers Little monsters

A few years ago I spent a few days in a Buddhist monastery in countryside in the UK. The whole experience was magical and it was the best retreat I've ever had in my life. There was a serene atmosphere and the stillness allowed me to understand things differently and logically.

Some people live to work and the others work to live; I fall into the second category. There are many more things in my life for me to feel like a human apart from working. My house and the garden is my little kingdom. I think of myself as a liberal ruler in my garden; I let things happen there but never abandon it. Flowers to decorate and vegetables to consume in my little territory and I always welcome invaders as long as they don't invade the whole kingdom. I include birds, frogs, insects and other wildlife as a part of my kingdom and they do remarkable things to keep it balanced. Somehow, somewhere, the eco-chain has broken down recently and slugs and snails invaded my garden. This is a little note about the battle against them to protect my kingdom.

They are harmless little ones walking slowly, even miles, to find their food. All they need is wet, warm weather and they hate bright sunlight so a rainy day would be ideal for them to eat and breed in thousands. Unfortunately this summer was an ideal one for them as it rained all the way along. Seeing a beautiful snail



munching a leaf in my garden is a poetic picture but how can I describe thousands of them destroying everything in my garden in one night? It would be a nightmare to the one who nurture the plants from the very first day it sprouts out. There was a time I was so kind and gentle towards the little monsters. I went to the garden with a torch and a bucket to gather them and took them somewhere to find a new home. I kept doing this for a while and I couldn't win the battle. It took only a single night to make all my hard labour disappear. The slugs and snails are innocent and had no intention to harm me but it became more and more frustrating when we started growing our own vegetables. Before I declared war against them I met the head monk of the monastery to

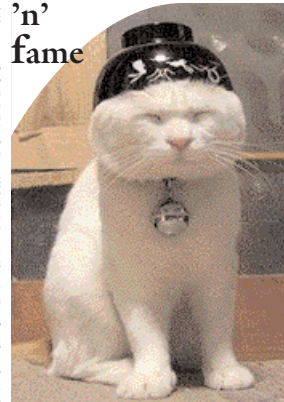
facts of reality and the frustration of someone who grows their own food. I took some of our home grown organic vegetables to the monastery with a great pride. I had been very harsh and even cruel sometimes to protect my crops from pests. On the way home I felt betrayed. I offered undamaged most cosmetically beautiful produce to monks to consume but still I'm at fault as a Buddhist.

I eat, monks eat, slugs eat, and we all eat to survive. Lay people offer food to monks and monks help us to set our souls right. I agree with the fact that every one has right to live, and for me to survive I have to eat. I like to grow my own food to eat. I still haven't found the right answer to my problem. Should I stop growing things to eat, and then I don't have to deal with pests like snails and slugs. I can buy food and ask someone else to do the unkind business for me. Somehow somewhere someone has got to do the job if I don't.

Dr Maudgal, one of my work pals, approached me with a different explanation. "Do you shut the door when you are not in? If you do why would you do that? What would you do if someone breaks in to your house? Would you let them steal what you have earned through out your life time? Bet you wouldn't. We all are territorial and survival is not that easy. Sometimes you have to be cruel to survive. Then you can justify it if there was a decent reason to be cruel."

What do you think?  
ravindhu@hotmail.co.uk

## Shoot for fun 'n' fame



"Go on... Hurry up and take the shot, won't ya? Don't you know how silly I get myself out of this sticky situation. Print this in *Daily News - Flowers and Pets!* Not in your nine lives! How embarrassing! I can't take it anymore..."