



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India
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CIRCULAR

To,

The Chief Secretary of all State / UTs

Subject: Request to implement the Guidelines for Birth Control and Immunization of stray cats

Sir/Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India has been receiving representations in the recent time requesting to control the population of stray cats in the urban area.

2. In this regard, it is stated that India is a country with more than 35 million stray animals, a large majority of which consist of dogs and cats. Both Dog and cat population is at all-time high and they tend to create menace in urban and metro regions, where population density is very high. These cats can be found in every district in large numbers especially in chawls, fish, meat markets, slums, building compounds, even in the Hospitals. The civic body does not have any control over their population which further causes a nuisance to residents and health risk to people, causing accidents, making persistent & excessive noises while fighting, mating even responsible for spreading zoonotic diseases like toxocariasis, rabies etc.

3. Further, every cat gives birth to four to five kittens in every three months, thereby increasing their population immensely and little kittens dying miserably on roads, under bikes, cars, gutters, drainage pipes, etc. These cats have non-administered rabies, de-worming, and other medications by the Municipal civic

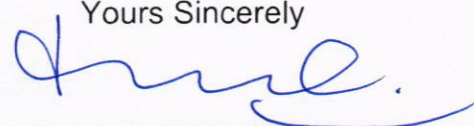
bodies nor they are sterilized/castrated as done for the dogs, this led to them living in the unhygienic and ailing environment. Thus, these stray cats shall be protected from unnecessary pain or suffering as per the mandate of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and its Rules.

4. It is pertinent to mention that it is the responsibility of the local bodies to take care of stray animals including cats and the Board has issued several advisories to the State Governments/UTs for taking appropriate action in the matter. The method adopted for the sterilization, which is being carried out by the local bodies for the stray dogs needs to be expanded to stray cats to save them from unnecessary pain or suffering.

5. Therefore, in view of the above, the Board has decided to widen the scope of the current ABC/AR programme and prepare these "**Guidelines for Birth Control and Immunization of stray cats**" to control the population, to eradicate rabies and safeguard the cats from other fatal diseases. This will help to remove the fear of rabies and getting infectious diseases from the cats as well as lower down the population which results in man-animal conflict mostly in urban areas and peri-urban forest areas.

With Regards,

Yours Sincerely



Dr. O. P Chaudhary
(Chairman)

Copy for information and necessary action:

1. The District Collector(s) of all Districts in the respective State Governments/UTs
2. Municipal Corporations of all States/ UTs

PREFACE

The Animal Welfare Board of India with the objective to Control the population of stray cats in urban areas has prepared these guidelines to conduct ABC/ AR program for sterilization and immunization of stray cats implemented through local bodies and AWO's. The Board Guidelines for Birth Control and Immunization of stray cats will be run on the similar lines to the existing ABC Module for sterilization of stray dogs and Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001. These guidelines should be read in harmonious construction with Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001.

I. ABC Agencies and its requirement:

The local bodies either by themselves or through Animal Welfare Organization recognized by AWBI particularly for ABC Program, shall carry out the birth Control and immunization of stray cats to manage the population.

2. The local bodies or Animal Welfare Organization involved in sterilization and immunization of stray cats should have technically competent in regard to carry out the birth Control and immunization. They shall also have well trained specialized veterinary surgeon, competent para veterinary manpower and infrastructure as required by ABC (Dog) Rules, 2001.

3. The agencies eligible for sterilization and immunization shall be the AWOs / SPCAs working in collaboration with Municipalities / Corporations / Committees / Gram Panchayats and registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860 (xx) of 1860, and Municipal Corporation / Committees and other local bodies. The AWO shall be recognized with the Animal Welfare Board of India specifically for conducting ABC Programme. The AWOs / SPCAs should meet the following requirements:

- (a) The organization should have experience of conducting Animal Birth Control Programme for minimum three years with special reference to cats.
- (b) The Organization has been recognized for carrying out ABC programme by the AWBI.
- (c) It should have an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted managing/ executive committee.
- (d) The organization shall give an undertaking to submit Annual Reports including Audit of accounts and returns periodically as prescribed.
- (e) The organization should have sufficient space to carry out the cat sterilization programe, capacity for creation of facilities such as operation theatre, housing for cats/ post-surgery care, dispensary, kitchen, store, vehicle to transport cats and qualified veterinary doctor(s) who are registered veterinary

practitioners with Indian Veterinary Council/State/UT and required number of Para-Vets to carry out the sterilization and Immunization of the cats.

- (f) In the event of organizations proposing to undertake catching and returning of sterilized stray cats, the organization should have arrangements for a vehicle to transport cats from and to the concerned localities from where the animal was picked up. The NGO / Agency should have capacity to engage trained cat catchers. Each Vehicle shall have one driver and two trained catchers.

II. Methodology:

1. The cats shall be captured by using the most humane methods like Trapping viz. like box trap, drop trap, kitten trap etc. or any other Humane Trapping method.
2. The Cat Sterilization Policy should be adopted on the principle for Trapp-Neuter and Return (TNR). All sterilized cats shall have to be identified prominently with collar with identification at the time of sterilization while the cat is still under the effect of anesthesia.
3. No cat should be spayed or neutered before attaining the age of six month or maturity.
4. No Female pregnant cats shall undergo abortion (irrespective of stage of pregnancy) and spaying till their litters born.
5. Spayed or neutered cats shall be vaccinated before release and identified with cat collar or ear tattooed to be identified as sterilized or immunised cats. For identification of cats, token or nylon collars for identification and detailed records of such cats shall be maintained. Branding of cats would not be permitted.
6. The specific register shall be maintained in respect of the capture and release of the stray cat.

III. Reimbursement:

The organization involved in particular components may given reimbursement in the following manner for sterilization and immunization of stray cats by local authorities

on fortnightly basis based on the number of sterilization/immunization done as per the following rates:

- i. Cat-catching and admission to ABC Center and relocation to areas from where captured – Rs.400/- per stray cat.
- ii. Pre-operative care, feeding, surgery, post-operative care including medicines – Rs.1600/- per stray cat.

The above costs are indicative minimum cost. The cost may vary from areas or as decided by the local authorities / monitoring committees.

IV. Inspection

The Board from time to time will specify the nature, type and periodicity of the inspection. The Board may authorize any individual or agency to carry out the inspection on its behalf.

V. Monitoring committee:

The Monitoring committee formed for the purpose of ABC/ AR programme shall periodically assess the work of the local bodies or ABC agencies in regard to the sterilization and immunization of Stray cats.

VI. Cancellation of Agencies:

The Monitoring Committee may recommend the suspension / cancellation of tender of sterilization and immunization given to any ABC agency which is working in the contravene to these guidelines, or violation of provision of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 or Rules thereunder and for any other reason for which the show cause notice has been issued to the ABC Centre. Based on recommendation and the inspection report received from the concerned authorities, AWBI may cancel its recognition by giving reason in written.
