



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड
ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India

एम. रविकुमार, आईएफएस
M. RAVIKUMAR, IFS
सचिव / Secretary

No.5-9/Pub.- HAWO/Cir/2017-18

Dated 31st July, 17

To

The Director General of Police of
All States /UTs

Sir/Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory body established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. The AWBI, working under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), was established "for the promotion of animal welfare generally for the purpose of protecting animals from being subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering" as stated in Section 4(1) of the ACT. One of the key functions of the AWBI as per Section 9(h) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 is "to co-operate with, and co-ordinate the work of, associations or bodies established for the purpose of preventing unnecessary pain or suffering to animals or for the protection of animals and birds."

The AWBI provides training to individuals and members of non government organisations to serve as Honorary Animal Welfare Officers (HAWO). Such individuals are expected to report instances of animal cruelty to the law enforcement agencies, collect information which can assist in prosecuting offenders of the law and assist the law enforcement agencies in any manner possible to prevent cruelty to animals.

Please bear in mind that when AWBI gives HAWO cards they are given after detailed inspections and the individuals and organisations are found to be of the highest integrity and diligence in the field of animal welfare.

It has been brought to our knowledge that when such authorised officers approach the police, they are sometimes not given due assistance and are harassed by the accused and the police. It has also been reported that counter FIRs on baseless charges have been readily accepted against HAWOs when they have approached the police against organised crime. This sets a very wrong precedent and desists the civil society in preventing crime. It also motivates and encourages the criminals who undermine the law with greater impunity.

You are requested to please sensitize the field officers and issue directions to co-operate and thoroughly investigate crimes reported by Honorary Animal Welfare Officers (HAWO) and to provide necessary protection and support to them.

Yours faithfully,


(M. RAVIKUMAR)
for Secretary

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