



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

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(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
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No.3-4/2021-2022/PCA

Dated: 29.11.2022

To,

1. The District Collectors / District Magistrates of all State / UTs
2. The Commissioners, Municipal Corporations of all Districts of all State/UTs

Subject: Standard Operative Procedure for dealing with the complaints of the Ferocious/Aggressive Dogs and Dog Bites cases in humane manner-regarding.

Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a Statutory Body established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 (PCA Act). The AWBI is an advisory body to the Central Government and State Government and also looks after the matter of implementation of PCA Act, 1960 and the Rules framed under this Act.

2. The ABWI has received several queries on how to deal with the issues of the ferocious/ aggressive dog and dog bites issues as there is growing concern among the public and local Bodies, which sometimes led to unnecessary conflict.

3. In this regard, it is stated that for the effective long term resolution of conflicts with street animals and prevention of dog bites, it is important that an effective Animal Birth Control Program in accordance with law should be in-place by the local authority. When street dog population is not controlled effectively and scientifically and dogs are merely relocated or killed, the dog bite cases increase. The dog fights continue over mating and protection of litters in the absence of an effective Animal Birth Control Program.

4. Further, it is stated that removing dogs from any area creates an unstable & constant changes which rapidly multiplied in the area. Conflict can ultimately and invariably increase in areas where street dogs are dislocated, removed or killed.

5. Hence, for the purpose of street dog population management by local authorities, in accordance with the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 and the 'Revised Module for Street Dog Population Management, Rabies Eradication and Reduction of Man-Dog Conflict' ("Revised Module"), the AWBI has prepared the "**Standard Operative Procedure for dealing with the complaints of the Ferocious/Aggressive Dog and Dog Bites cases in humane manner**" detailing the necessary protocol which must be followed dealing with the complaints of the Ferocious /Aggressive Dog and Dog Bites to ensure the proper welfare of the animals and to prevent any unnecessary pain or suffering to the animals. Copy of the ABC Rule and Revised ABC Module are available in the website of AWBI i.e. www.awbi.gov.in

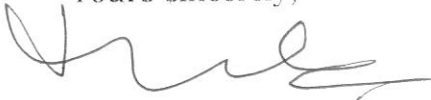
6. In order to effectively and lawfully deal with the complaints with regard to 'ferocious' or 'aggressive' dogs, or any nuisance being alleged because of community

dogs, the following SOP must be followed. Any arbitrary action of relocating or killing dogs is not countenanced in law and will be a violation of the order dated 18th November 2015 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 691/2009 which stated "*.....no innovative method or subterfuge should be adopted not to carry out the responsibility under the 1960 Act or the 2001 Rules*".

7. Therefore, in view of the above, it is again requested to kindly issue necessary direction to the officials concerned to strictly follow the Standard Protocol for dealing with the complaints of the Furious/Aggressive Dog and Dog Bites in humane manner.

Your co-operation and co-ordination is highly solicited for the welfare of animals.

Yours sincerely,


(Dr. O. P Chaudhary) *bn*
Chairman

Standard Operative Procedure for dealing with the complaints of the Furious/Aggressive Dog and Dog Bites cases in humane manner;

1. The Animal Birth Control (“ABC”) Monitoring Committee of the Local Authority must be established with a dog control cell to receive complaints about dog bites/nuisance.
2. The complaints' about dog bites/nuisance shall be attended on a priority basis. On receipt of such a complaint, the details including full name of the complainant, complete address of the complainant, date, time and location of complaint, nature of complaint etc. shall be recorded in a register to be maintained for permanent record by the local authority.
3. The Municipal Corporation/Animal Welfare Organization (which is a part of the local ABC Monitoring Committee mentioned in ‘1.’) must inform the ABC Implementing Agency of the complaint. The ABC Implementing Agency must then physically verify the alleged bites, obtain the records of post-bite treatment and devise a mitigation strategy to prevent further conflict including educating the community regarding dog bite prevention, counselling, designation of dog feeding spots and prioritising ABC and a vaccination drive in the area.
4. If complaints persist, the community dog in question must be humanely captured by the dog capturing squad. The dog capturing squad shall consist of (i) The driver of the dog van (ii) Two or more employees of the local authority trained in capturing of dogs (iii) One representative of any Animal Welfare Organization. The dog capturing squad shall be accompanied by a representative of an Animal Welfare Organisation nominated for the purpose and each member of the dog squad shall carry a valid identity card issued by the local authority, in accordance with Rule 7(2) of the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001].
5. The dog shall be removed from the area and taken to the ABC facility/ campus for observation, to ensure the safety of both the dog and humans in its territory. For this purpose, the Local Authority shall provide for sufficient numbers of kennels in the ABC Center, dog vans, drivers, dog catchers, and ambulances as per Rule 6(1) of the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001.
6. In accordance with 4.6 of the Revised Module, a Committee shall be constituted on a case to case basis to assess the information available and observe the dog over a period of 7 days, and decide if the dog is indeed a habitual biter. It must consist of a representative of the local authority, a qualified veterinarian approved by the ABC Monitoring Committee of the local authority, and a representative of an SPCA or Animal Welfare Organization recognized by the AWBI. If the Committee comes to the conclusion that the dog is not a habitual biter after observation, it shall release the dog back into the area that it had been picked up from after sterilising and immunising the dog.
7. If, however, the committee comes to the conclusion that the dog needs to remain under observation for a longer period of time, then, based on reasons recorded in writing, it will decide on the length of time varying from one to three weeks, for which the dog may have to be detained for further observation and treatment if required. The requisite treatment shall be done in the hospitals run by Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) or an infirmary notified by the State Government under Section 35(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
8. During such detention, regular veterinary check-up of the dog is a must. If after continued observation and assessment, the committee comes to the conclusion that the dog is indeed a habitual biter without provocation, then the dog will not be released back.
9. The case of such a dog must be reviewed on a bi-monthly basis by the committee, and all records with respect to such an animal, including records of treatment, observation by the committee, and its recommendations, shall be retained.

10. Such a dog shall then be released when it is deemed suitably altered in behaviour and considered ready for release. Under no circumstances shall it be released into any territory other than the one from where it was picked up for observation.
11. For the purposes of capturing, immunisation, sterilisation and release of dogs, Rule 6 and 7 of the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 must be adhered to and it shall be ensured that unnecessary pain and suffering is not caused to the dogs.