



Animal Welfare Board of India

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BRIEF OF ACTIVITIES OF AWBI

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) was set up in 1962 in accordance with Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 (No.59 of 1960). The mandate of the Board is *“For the promotion of animal welfare generally and for the purpose of protecting animals from being subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering, in particular”*.

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory body and advise State and Central Government on the issues related to animal welfare including cruelty meted out to animals. The State Authorities are empowered to initiate appropriate action against the offenders meting out cruelty to animals and to take action as per the law. The Animal Welfare Board of India is periodically addressing the letters to the State Governments and UTs regarding the complaints received and request them to take necessary action against the offenders as per law.

The Central Government has enacted the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Establishment and Regulations of Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Rules, 2001 under which the State Government has to notify the formation of District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in every district. The Board has also regularly addressing the State Governments and UTs to form the State Animal Welfare Board and District SPCAs and to make them functional for the effective implementation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and its Rules to prevent cruelty to animals.

The Animal Welfare Board of India has completed 63 years of services in the promotion of animal welfare and prevention of cruelty to animals. During the year, the activities of the Board continued to extend throughout the country even in remote rural areas. The Board has conducted programs to bring about awareness of humane education and animal welfare laws. The Board has been continuously engaged to save animals from cruelties meted out to them and to provide necessary help when it is found in distress through its recognized Animal Welfare Organizations / representatives. The number of AWBI recognized Animal Welfare Organizations has been increased and thus saving more animals from the cruelties being suffered by them. The Board has been trying at its level best to address the issues pertaining to man-animal conflicts in a humane manner and standing forth to create awareness about their co-existence. Lack of effective enforcement of the laws against cruelties inflicted to animals still needs more attention. The establishment of effective and functional Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) in each and every district of the country and robust State Animal Welfare Boards (SAWBs) in each state are the need of the hour.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE BOARD

- a. To keep the law in force in India for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals under constant study and to advise the government on the amendments to be undertaken in any such law from time to time.
- b. To advise the Central Government on the making of rules under the Act with a view to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering to animals generally, and more particularly when they are being transported from one place to another or when they are used as performing animals or when they are kept in captivity or confinement.
- c. To advise the Government or any local authority or other person on improvements in the design of vehicles so as to lessen the burden on draught animals.
- d. To take all such steps as the Board may think fit for *(amelioration of animals) by encouraging or providing for, the construction of sheds, water troughs and the like and by providing for veterinary assistance to animals.
- e. To advise the Government or any local authority or other person in the design of slaughter houses or the maintenance of slaughter houses or in connection with slaughter of animals so that unnecessary pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is eliminated in the preslaughter stages as far as possible, and animals are killed; wherever necessary, in as humane a manner as possible.
- f. To take all such steps as the Board may think fit to ensure that unwanted animals are destroyed by local authorities, whenever it is necessary to do so, either instantaneously or after being rendered insensible to pain or suffering.
- g. To encourage by the grant of financial assistance or otherwise, (the formation or establishment of Pinjarapoles, rescue homes, animal shelters, sanctuaries and the like), where animals and birds may find a shelter when they have become old and useless or when they need protection.
- h. 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.
- i. To give financial and other assistance to Animal Welfare Organisations functioning in any local area or to encourage the formation of Animal Welfare Organizations in any local area which shall work under the general supervision and guidance of the Board.
- j. To advise the Government on matters relating to the medical care and attention which may be provided in animal hospitals, and to give financial and other assistance to animal hospitals whenever the Board thinks it necessary to do so.
- k. To impart education in relation to the humane treatment of animals and to encourage the formation of public opinion against the infliction of unnecessary

pain or suffering to animals and for the promotion of animal welfare by means of lectures, books, posters, cinematographic exhibitions and the like.

- I. To advise the Government on any matter connected with animal welfare or the Prevention of infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals.

2. ACT AND RULES:

Till date the Central Government has notified the following Rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 which is being implemented by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

- (i) The Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965
- (ii) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Licensing of Farriers) Rules, 1965
- (iii) The Transport of Animals Rules, 1978
- (iv) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Application of Fines) Rules, 1978
- (v) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Registration of Cattle Premises) Rules, 1978
- (vi) The Prevention of Cruelty (Capture of Animals) Rules, 1979
- (vii) Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001
- (viii) Performing Animals (Registration) Amendment Rules, 2002
- (ix) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Transport of Animals on Foot) Rules, 2001
- (x) Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001
- (xi) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001
- (xii) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Establishment and Regulation of Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Rules, 2001
- (xiii) Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2009
- (xiv) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2010
- (xv) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017
- (xvi) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing Rules) Rules, 2017
- (xvii) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop Rules) Rules, 2018
- (xviii) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Egg Laying Hens) Rules, 2023
- (xix) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animal Husbandry Practice and Procedure) Rules 2023
- (xx) Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023

3. ADVISORIES ISSUED BY BOARD FOR WELFARE OF ANIMALS:

The Board has issued several advisories to the States / UTs for preventing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals. The details are mentioned below:-

- (1) Advisory to initiate necessary action for rescue and rehabilitation of stray animals vide letter dated 12th July, 2018.
- (2) Advisory on Activation of State Animal Welfare Board and establishment of SPCAs in every district vide letter dated 5th March, 2018, 1st October, 2018, 16th June, 2020, 28th June, 2021, 23rd August, 2021
- (3) Request for disclose the particulars of Gochar/grazing land available in each village and make the same available for grazing of cows in respective States dated 05.03.2018 and 23.02.2021

- (4) Advisory on immense cruelty and illegality perpetrated during export of live animals / live stocks including small ruminants such as sheep, goats etc. especially during their transport vide 1st October, 2018.
- (5) Letter to the Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary of all States / UTs of Animal Husbandry Department for implementation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rules, 2018 frame under PCA Act, 1960 vide letter dated 01.05.2020.
- (6) Letter to the Scientist F, Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology, New Delhi to restrict the trade of animals in the E-commerce platform without proper registration vide letter dated 22nd June, 2020.
- (7) Letter to Chief Secretary /District Magistrate of all States/UTs requesting to issue strict directions to completely Ban the use of Nylon Manjha on the occasion of Makarasankranti vide letter dated 7.1.2021.
- (8) Advisory for proper implementation of Care and Maintenance of case property Animals Rules, 2017 dated 15.06.2021 and 27.12.2021
- (9) Standard Operating Procedure for proper implementation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals(Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017 dated 20.01.2022
- (10) Request to initiate action on animal welfare issues dated 28.06.2021
- (11) Request to initiate actions for making effective utilization of veterinary hospitals and to provide 24 hour veterinary service dated 28.06.2021
- (12) Letter to the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of all States/UTs requesting to ensure ban on keeping the aerial birds in caged vide letter dated 22nd July, 2021.
- (13) Advisory to use artistic and technological means instead of live animals in films, advertisements, TV-shows and on digital content dated 22.11.2021.
- (14) Revised rate for Animal Birth Control Programme for Dogs as per the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001 AWBI ABC Module dated 05.04.2022
- (15) Request to properly implement and circulate the standard protocol for the adoption of community animals dated 17.05.2022
- (16) Request to implement and circulate Regulatory Compliances for Slaughter houses and Meat Shops dated 30.05.2022
- (17) Guidelines for Animal Shelters with regard to Veterinary facilities dated 09.06.2022
- (18) Request to make adequate number of animal crematorium and incinerator in each district of every state and UTs to dispose the cadavers in environmentally acceptable manner dated 02.08.2022
- (19) General Awareness in regard to the Lumpy (Skin) Disease in Cattle/Bovine dated 05.08.2022
- (20) Guidelines for use of Muzzle on Dogs and care of community dogs dated 17.08.2022
- (21) Letter to the Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Board of all the States/UTs regarding Standard Operative Procedure for using equine as Pack Animals in hilly / Mountainous terrain vide letter dated 29.08.2022.
- (22) Mass killing of dogs and stray dogs menace dated 10.10.2022.
- (23) Request for placing of water bowls for the birds and animals dated 27.02.2023
- (24) Request to avoid exposure of direct heat to draught and pack animal and to take care of animals during extreme hot weather during transportation on foot dated 01.06.2023

- (25) Request to avoid exposure of direct heat and to take care of animals during extreme hot weather dated 18.04.2024
- (26) Request to issue necessary amendment in the notification issued under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986, for the prohibition of all harmful sharp threads or Manjha used for kite flying activities dated 25.04.2024
- (27) Request for Providing Temporary Shelter and Safeguarding Stray Animals During the Monsoon Season dated 10.07.2024
- (28) Advisory on implementation of Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 dated 01.10.2024
- (29) Message to celebrate a compassionate and eco-friendly Deepavali dated 29.10.2024
- (30) Advisory regarding urgent request to ensure Compliance of Transport of Animals Rules, 1978 (amended in 2001 and 2009) under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (PCA Act) in regard to Illegal Cattle Transportation at the India-Nepal Border - dated 29.10.2024.

4. RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS, GAUSHALAS etc.:

The Board grants recognition to registered non-profit organization who works primarily for welfare of animals including Gaushala, Pinjrapole and who have completed three years after registration in the State. A total of **3810 Animal Welfare Organizations** are recognized by the Board as on date.

5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE BOARD:

The Board also provides financial assistance under the various schemes for taking care of stray / abandoned / helpless animals:

- (i) **Regular and Rescued Cattle Grant:** The Board provides financial assistance to the recognized Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs). The regular grant is being given on the basis of no. of animals sheltered / treated / rescued by the Animal Welfare Organization duly verified by the Animal Husbandry Department.
- (ii) **Scheme for Shelter House for looking after the animals:** Shelter houses are established at various places, however, their number is not adequate and the facilities provided are insufficient. In such a situation it becomes imperative that shelter houses are established and made available at least one a district with all the facilities like health care, stall feed etc. The scheme will endeavor to full this gap and provide requisite services to uncared animals. The scheme provides for Rs.25.00 lakh for construction of a shelter houses, in-house dispensary etc. Out of which Rs.22.50 lakh (being 90%) is provided by the Government and remaining cost 2.50 (being 10%) is borne by the AWO.
- (iii) **Scheme for Animal Birth Control (ABC) & Immunization of Stray Dogs:** The scheme is meant for controlling the population of stray dogs by sterilization and reducing incidence of rabies by immunization. Non-Governmental Organisations, Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and local bodies are eligible for this grant.
- (iv) **Scheme for Provision of Ambulance Services to Animals in Distress:** Under this scheme the animal welfare organizations are given grants for purchase of suitable vehicles for transportation, rescue and also for providing

emergency services to animals in distress. Non-Governmental Organisations are assisted to the extent of 90% of the cost of a suitable vehicle and equipment and fitting thereon. The maximum amount of grant-in-aid is limited to Rs.4.50 lakhs.

- (v) **Scheme for Relief to Animals during Natural Calamities:** Every year, there are natural calamities in the form of flood, drought, earthquake etc. In such circumstances, there is an immediate requirement for provision of fodder, the adequate shelter, medical attention etc. for the affected animals. Funds for relief to such animals are provided under this scheme through the AWOs.

6. REGISTRATION OF PERFORMING ANIMALS AND ISSUE OF PRE-SHOOT PERMISSION AND POST SHOOT CERTIFICATE TO FILMS/AD-FILMS etc.:

The Govt. of India has notified the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 on 26.03.2001 and amended in 2002. Section 3 of the rules requires that any person desirous of training or exhibiting a performing animal shall apply for registration to the Board, which is the prescribed authority. The producers making film/ad film etc. applied to the Board for issue of pre-shoot permission and post shoot certificate. The Performing Animals Sub-Committee constituted by the Board scrutinized /processed the applications and issued the registration certificates after ascertaining / ensuring that there was no cruelty inflicted on the performing animals.

7. REGISTRATION OF CIRCUS AND HORSE RACE

- (i) The Board has registered circuses under the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 which are using performing animals for the purpose of exhibition. Only 5 circuses are having registration certificate as of today.
- (ii) The Board also registers the horses used in the Race Horse Clubs. The Board had registered 6326 nos. of horses for race of different Race Horse Clubs.

8. HUMANE EDUCATION

- (i) One of the main functions of the Board is propagation of Humane Education.
- (ii) The Board had circulated the PCA Act, 1960 and its Rules to the Police Department of all States to create awareness as per the hierarchy for proper implementation.
- (iii) The Board is regularly requesting State Govt. to ensure that animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering during any festivals, transportation, exhibitions/ fairs and during natural calamities / epidemic situations.
- (iv) The Board has requested all Animal Welfare Organisations, SPCAs, Animal Welfare Trainers, Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives, Govt. Animal Husbandry Departments, Zoological Parks and Voluntary Organisations to celebrate World Animal Day (4th October), Animal Welfare Fortnight (14th January till 30th January) and Jeev Jantu Kalyan Diwas throughout the country with great interest, zeal and enthusiasm every year.

- (v) The Board has resolved to celebrate "Jeev-Jantu Kalyan Divas" on Vasant Panchami Day every year across the country. The Board has also instituted national awards under various categories to foster animal welfare and reward person(s) and Organisation(s) to acknowledge their contribution towards the cause of animal welfare and animal protection.
- (vi) The Board celebrates World Rabies Day on 28th September every year which is a global event to create awareness and to highlight its preventive measures. The Board has circulated a letter to all the Animal Welfare Organisations which are carrying out sterilization and immunization to carry out mass vaccination of stray dogs to control the Rabies.
- (vii) The Board is organizing the seminars / awareness programmes on various topics such as "Cowpathy and Human Health", Cow science and Technology for Gaushala managers and workers, Animal Welfare Rules and Regulations and Vetrolegal Issues, their handling and amicable solutions, Animal safety etc. to create awareness.
- (viii) National Seminar on "Animal Rights Awareness week (17-23, June, 2024)" Organized
- (ix) Five Days Children Education Program at DPSG, Seekri, Ballabgarh
- (x) One-Day Training Programme on Animal Welfare Laws For Police Officials Conducted On 19.10.2024

9. NOMINATION OF HONORARY ANIMAL WELFARE REPRESENTATIVES:

The Board also nominates the Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives after undergoing training program conducted by the Board to look after all the animal welfare matters in their State / District in co-ordination with the administration / law enforcement authorities on matter related to prevention of cruelty to animals. As of now, 191 applicants have been trained in last 2 years for nominating them as Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives. Recently, the Board has signed a MoU with NALSAR University of Law for imparting training to HAWR before nominating them.

10. AUTHORIZATION OF COLONY ANIMAL CARE TAKER:

Most of compassionate citizens of the Country extends the animal welfare support by feeding the stray animals in their respective local area. Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India empowers every citizen to take care of rivers, lake, forests including living creatures. The Board issues the authorization to feed the stray animals so that people around them doesn't harass. The Board had issued the CACT Card to 7426 applicants till December, 2017. Currently, the Board has resumed this process and issued the authorization letter to 1629 applicants.

11. CRUELTY MATTERS AND ACTION TAKEN ON THE COMPLAINTS

The Board has received many complaints regarding cruelty to animals from various parts of the country and the same were informed to the concerned officers of the State Governments, District Collectors / Magistrates / District Superintendent of police for conducting an enquiry and forwarding action taken report on the complaints.

12. MEETING WITH STATE GOVERNMENT:

The Ministry is regularly conducting the Regional Review Meeting with the State Govt. on various issues related to Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in which the matters related to Animal Welfare has also been discussed with all the State Govt. for effective implementation of the PCA Act and Rules made thereunder which have been attended by most of the officials of the States / UTs.

13. DIGITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES OF AWBI

Shri Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Minister, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying had launched the web-portal of AWBI on 4th October, 2021 on the occasion of World Animal Day, 2021.

The Board has developed an online system for processing the applications of various activities such as recognition of Gaushala/ AWO, processing / release of Grant under various schemes of AWBI to AWO/Gaushala/SPCA/Local Body, Project recognition for ABC, registration of performing animals for Films / circuses/ events etc., registration of horses for Horse Races, Issue of Colony Animal Care Taker authorization, Nomination of Honorary Animal Welfare Representative followed by Training, Disposal of Grievance / Cruelty matters etc.

This has reduced processing time for granting permission.
