

**MINUTES OF THE 45TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ANIMAL WELFARE
BOARD OF INDIA HELD ON 15.11.2013 AT CHENNAI**

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM	-	Chairman
2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna	-	Vice Chairman
3. Shri Rajiv Gupta, IAS Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports	}	
4. Shri Guljarilal Soni	}	
5. Shri Doulat Jain	}	Members
6. Dr. Arun Varma	}	
7. Ms. Norma Alvares	}	
8. Ms. Anjali Sharma	}	
9. Dr. Sunil Kumar Dy. Director In-charge, Central Research Institute, Noida	}	
10. Dr. Ajai Kumar Yadav, Ministry of Agriculture Rep. of Animal Husbandry Commissioner	}	
11. Brig. S.S. Chohan, VSM (Retd) Rep. of Municipal Corporation, Gurgaon	}	
12. Shri Surjit Singh Joint Secretary (AW) Ministry of Environment & Forests	}	Special Invitee
13. Ms. Geethanjali, IFS Deputy Secretary (AW) Ministry of Environment & Forests	}	
14. Smt. S. Uma Rani	}	Secretary, AWBI

The following Members of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) i.e. Dr. S.K. Khanduri, IFS Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, Ms. Amala Akkineni, Ms. Jasjit Purewal had requested for leave of absence and the same was granted.

Hon'ble Chairman extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the Members of the Board to the 45th Annual General Meeting.

Hon'ble Chairman informed about his sustained dialogue with National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health regarding implementing Rabies Control Project under one health programme for human and animal components. Both the human and animal components are interconnected for Rabies Control and they must be implemented together. The Animal Husbandry Department says that dogs are not included in the list of livestock animals and hence cannot be addressed by them. Since the public health is concerned with the Human rabies control, this problem can be addressed by the Ministry of Health. Hon'ble Chairman informed that in Srilanka, Thailand, Singapore street dogs Rabies Control through Mass Vaccination and Sterilization is with public health Department. Now the NCDC has agreed to a pilot programme under one health programme to include street dogs Rabies Control in the Pilot Study which will be implemented jointly by NCDC and AWBI. A total budget of Rs. 50.00 Crores has been approved for the pilot project out of which Rs.20.00 Crores will be used for human programme and Rs.30.00 Crores will be for ABC and mass vaccination of street dogs.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed about an excellent Mass Rabies Vaccination programme conducted by Worldwide Veterinary Services (WVS) of UK under "Mission Rabies". The WVS has imported a state of the art huge mobile truck with all facilities for ABC & ARV programme. They have vaccinated 60,000 stray dogs in one month with assistance from Animal Welfare Organisations, Vets, animal welfare activists from several countries and moral support from AWBI. The programme was commenced from Goa and concluded in Guwahati on World Rabies Day on 29th September, 2013 with a closing function. The WVS will be repeating this programme for another two years in India.

The Ministry representative (Joint Secretary & Deputy Secretary) appreciated the initiative of Mission Rabies undertaken by Worldwide Veterinary Society and enquired if future action plan of Mission Rabies could be implemented taking their inputs also in to consideration.

Item No.1: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2012-13.

The Assistant Secretary, AWBI briefed about the audit remarks of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of AWBI for the year 2012-13. The Board approved the Annual Report 2012-13 and adopted the separate Audit Report of C&AG of India on the accounts of the Board for the year 2012-13.

Item No.2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 39th General Meeting held on 23rd August, 2013.

The Minutes of the 39th General Meeting of the Board held on 23rd August, 2013 were confirmed.

Item No.3: Report on action taken on the 39th General Meeting of the Board held on 23rd August, 2013.

The decisions and actions taken in the 39th General Meeting of the Board held on 23rd August, 2013 were reviewed and noted with the following directions/suggestions:

Hon'ble Chairman briefed about the Master Training Programme for Humane Education conducted by AWBI in Tamil Nadu, Kolkatta and Bengaluru. A three week training programme will be conducted in Hyderabad in coordination with Blue Cross of Hyderabad. These Master Trainers will educate the School Children, Government Officials, etc. about animal welfare after completion of their training.

Hon'ble Chairman informed about inability of the Board to utilize the full grants amount received from Government of India under various schemes due to delay in receipt of inspection reports from the designated inspection agencies like Animal Husbandry Department, Forests Department and Revenue Department.

The Board has requested the Ministry to relax the conditions of Shelter House and Ambulance schemes by reducing the period of lease from 30 years to 10 years under Shelter House scheme so that a large number of Gaushalas who are in possession of Government land can avail the Shelter House Grant. The Joint Secretary (AW) assured that he will look into the proposal submitted by the Board.

In order to provide more assistance to the needy organizations who have expanded their activities during the past years after getting grant in-aid under Shelter House and Ambulance schemes, the Board has decided to reduce the period from 10 years to 5 years and 5 years to 2 years to avail grant under Shelter House and Ambulance schemes respectively. In view of approval of this decision, the Board can consider more proposals and utilize the budget allocation under these schemes in this financial year.

The Board discussed about the use of Ambulances and decided that Tractor and Trolley can be used by AWOs for primarily transporting animals and also for transporting fodder, cow dung etc. which are all for the welfare of animals.

The Municipalities/Civic Bodies working for stray animals in coordination with animal welfare organizations can also avail grant-in-aid under Shelter House and Ambulance Schemes.

The Board decided that a fee of Rs.500/- can be paid to the inspection authorities on receipt of inspection report from the Government Department.

The Board has decided that the applications for Regular Grant will not be processed for consideration of grant unless the utilization certificate for earlier grant is furnished by the AWOs and in future no conditional sanction will be issued. This

information is to be published in the AWBI publications, website and letters to be sent to AWOs for information.

The Board has decided that PeTA be approached for identification of Elephant Sanctuaries for rehabilitation of elephants from circuses.

The Golden Jubilee Souvenir prepared by Board has been sent to the Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests for approval for printing and publishing the same in New Delhi. There has been an undue delay in getting the approval of Hon'ble Minister. The Joint Secretary (AW) assured to follow up the matter.

Item No.4: Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meetings of the Board held on 30.10.2013 and 14.11.2013.

The Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meetings held on 30.10.2013 and 14.11.2013 were approved and ratified.

Item No.5: Ratification of Revised Estimates 2013-14 and Budget Estimates 2014-15 submitted to Ministry.

The Annual General Meeting considered the Revised Estimates 2013-14 and Budget Estimates 2014-15 submitted to the Ministry and ratified the same. The AGM decided that a letter to be sent to the Ministry for re-appropriation of Rs.1.00 Crore from Shelter House Scheme to Plan Scheme immediately.

Item No.6: Consideration of matter relating to latest status report of Utilization Certificate under Regular Grant and CSS.

The Board noted the matter.

Item No.7: Consideration of the matter relating to Ratification of Circular resolution regarding matter of the relaxation of the Board decision under CSS of Shelter House and Ambulance Service Scheme.

The AGM considered the matter and approved/ratified the decision to reduce the period from 10 years to 5 years and 5 years to 2 years to avail grant under Shelter House and Ambulance schemes respectively. The Board decided that joint inspection by State agencies is not required and reiterated that if inspection report is received even from one State agency such as Animal Husbandry then it will be accepted and grant will be processed.

Item No.8: Consideration of SOP on ABC Laparoscopy Method.

The AGM considered and approved the draft SOP on ABC Laparoscopy for sterilization of street dogs from Dr. Vikas C. Mehrotra, Head-Veterinary, Kari Storz Endoscopy India Pvt.Ltd., New Delhi.

Item No.9: Consideration of SOP on ABC by CNVR Method.

The AGM discussed the matter and did not approve the SOP on ABC by Same Day Release method. The AGM decided to circulate the study report of TANUVAS on the “Evaluation of Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (CNVR) to the Members for their comments and suggestions.

Item No.10: Consideration of SOP on Gaushalas.

The AGM considered and approved the SOP on Gaushalas and decided to translate the same into Hindi. The Board Members were requested to give their comments to improve the SOP by adding a checklist for the things to do or not to do by Gaushalas. The Board recorded its thanks to Brig. S.S. Chohan, VSM (Retd.) for his efforts to prepare the SOP.

Item No.11: Consideration of matter relating to Revised Draft of the Animal Welfare Bill 2012.

The AGM decided that this matter be discussed by the Legal Experts in the Legal Committee with the Joint Secretary, MoEF.

Item No.12: Consideration of matter relating to important pending court cases by Secretary.

The Secretary, AWBI briefed about the important pending court cases. The AGM considered the matter and decided to follow up on cases which matter to the Board, support the cases/petition where Board accepts the prayer if it is in the interest of animal welfare.

Item No.13: Consideration of grant relating to conducting of seminar on “Animal Welfare” at Trivandrum, Kerala by CPREEC.

The AGM considered the matter and approved for sanction/release of grant of Rs.3.20 lakhs from the Donations Account to CPREEC, Chennai for conducting a Seminar on Animal Welfare in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
