



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
42 Mile Stone, Delhi-Agra Highway, NH-2,
Ballabhgarh, Haryana-121004
Email: support@awbi.gov.in : Website: www.awbi.gov.in

File No.: AC-02003/1/2026-AWBI

To,

1. The Chief Secretary of all the State Governments/UTs.
2. All the Compassionate Citizens, Animal Owners and Care Takers.

Subject: Request to ensure care and protection of animals from direct heat during extreme hot weather conditions- regarding.

Ref.: The office - wide letter dated -18.04.2024 (copy enclosed)

Sir/Madam,

Kindly refer to the above cited letter.

1. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory body established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. It is entrusted with the protection and safeguarding of animal welfare, including ensuring that the five freedoms of animals are upheld and that no animal is subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering. The AWBI can advise the Government, local authorities, and any other person on matters relating to animal protection, including issuing advisories, circulars, and guidelines within its statutory mandate.
2. As we are approaching the sweltering summer months, it is imperative to pay special attention to the well-being of animals. Animals, including but not limited to dogs, are particularly vulnerable to heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heatstroke, and burns from hot surfaces. It is, therefore, the responsibility of all compassionate citizens to ensure their safety and comfort during such extreme hot conditions.
3. It is essential to recognize that under Section 3 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, it is the duty of every person having charge of an animal to take all reasonable measures to ensure its well-being and to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering. Failure to do so, constitutes an offence under various provisions of Section 11(1) of the PCA Act, 1960. Some essential steps that individuals can take to safeguard animals are as follows:
 - i. **Provide Ample Shelter:** Ensure that animals have access to shaded areas throughout the day. Construct shelters using environment-friendly materials or natural shade of trees/structures should be arranged to protect them from direct sunlight.
 - ii. **Placing water bowls and pots:** Hydration is key to combating heat stress. Regularly replenish water bowls with clean, fresh water and place water bowls in shaded areas, near wells or handpumps, and use large earthen pots with wide opening or stable containers that cannot be easily overturned by animals.

- iii. **Monitor for signs of Heat stress:** Be vigilant for symptoms of heatstroke, including excessive panting, lethargy, drooling, rapid heartbeat, and collapse. Seek immediate veterinary attention if any signs of distress are observed.
- iv. **Awareness:** Spread awareness about the importance of protecting animals from extreme heat within your community. Encourage others to implement similar preventive measures and provide assistance if needed.
4. It is pertinent to note that Sub-Rule (3) of the Rule 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965, stipulates that no person shall use any animal for drawing vehicles or carrying loads in areas where the temperature exceeding 37^o C between 12 noon and 3.00 pm. Further, Rule 12 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Transport of Animals on Foot) Rules, 2001, prohibits the transportation of animals on foot when the temperature exceeds 30^o C or outside the hours between sunrise and sunset.
5. In light of the likelihood of extreme heat conditions across India, it is incumbent upon all citizens and animals-care takers to take proactive measures to protect the animals from heat-related illness and distress.
6. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) urges all individuals and organisations responsible for taking care of animals to take preventive measures shielding them from the adverse effects of extreme heat.
7. The concerned departments are also requested to issue appropriate directions and ensure strict implementation of the statutory Rules under the relevant provisions to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering to the animals during such extreme hot weather conditions.
8. All advisories, guidelines, regulations, and circulars issued by the AWBI are available on the website: www.awbi.gov.in.
9. Your cooperation and coordination are highly solicited in the interest of animal welfare.
10. Hindi Version follows.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. M. K. Chauhan)
Secretary

Encl.: As above.

Copy to: for information and necessary action.

1. The Director General of Police of all the States/UTs. The Director,
2. Department of Animal Husbandry of all State Governments/UTs.
3. The Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Board of all the States/UTs.
4. The District Collector of all States /UTs.
5. The Municipal Commissioners of all the States and UTs.
6. The Members and Co-opted Members of the Board
7. The P.S. to Chairman, AWBI for information.