



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

mail: support@awbi.gov.in; Website: www.awbi.gov.in

File No.: AC-02003/2/2025-AWBI

To,

1. The Director, Animal Husbandry Department of all the States and UTs
2. The Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Boards of all the States/UTs.
3. The Commissioner, Municipal Corporations of all the Districts in all the States /UTs.

Subject: Request to stop illegal transportation and slaughtering of animals, and promotion of humane treatment of animals – reg.

Ref.: This office letter of even number dated 12.08.2025 and 17.03.2026(copy enclosed).

Sir/Madam,

Kindly refer to above-cited letters.

2. It is stated that the Central Government has notified the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978 (as amended in 2001 and 2009) and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001 (as amended in 2010) to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering to animals. It is a fact that large numbers of animals are illegally transported and slaughtered for food especially during festivals. It is reported that during transportation of animals, the owner of the animals does not follow the animal welfare laws, which result in cruelty to the animals and even some of the animals die during transportation.

3. As you may be aware, cruelty to any animal is a punishable offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Such violation is against the spirit of Article 48, 48 (a) and 51 A(g) of the Constitution of India.

4. The Brief of Transport of Animals Rules, 1978 (as amended in 2001 and 2009) and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001 (as amended in 2010) along with the various circular, advisories, judgements and other relevant laws are attached at **Annexure**.

5. Therefore, it is requested to kindly direct all the concerned authorities to take all precautionary measures for strict implementation of the Animal Welfare laws to stop illegal transportation of animals or killing of animals and to take stringent action against the offenders violating the animal laws.

6. The concerned authorities are also requested to sensitizing the public through posters, social media, twitter and other forms of electronic media. It is also requested to direct the concerned authorities to forward a detailed report on quarterly basis on the status of enforcement of the above laws, to the Board for taking further necessary action in the matter.

A line of confirmation in this regard is highly solicited.

Yours sincerely,

Digitally signed by
Dr. Maheshbhai Khanabhai Chauhan
Date: 02-07-2026 16:26:25

(Dr. M.K. Chauhan)
Secretary

Encl: As above

Copy to: The Members and Co-opted Members, Animal Welfare Board of India.

ANNEXURE

1. The AWBI has authorised the officials of the Department of Animal Husbandry of all the States and UTs not below the rank of Assistant Director / SDO (District Animal Husbandry Officer) for issuing the certificate under Rule 96 of the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001 vide letter F.No.11/2010-COAWBI dated 11th August, 2010 (copy enclosed) followed by letter dated 9th August, 2012, 25th July, 2014 and 06.05.2015 (copies attached) for streamlining the issue of the certificate under Rule 96 of the Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001 by Railways and Trucks and for implementation of Transport of Animal Rules, 1978 and as amended in 2010.
2. As per Rule 2(b), "slaughter" means the killing or destruction of any animal for the purpose of food and includes all the processes and operations performed on all such animals in order to prepare it for being slaughtered. As per Rule 3 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001, no person shall slaughter any animal within a municipal area except in a slaughter house recognized or licensed by the concerned authority empowered under the law for the time being in force to do so. No animal shall be slaughtered, which is pregnant, or has an offspring less than 3 months old, or is under 3 months of age, or which has not been certified by a Veterinary Doctor that it is in a fit condition to be slaughtered.
3. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a direction through vide No.1-988/FSSAI/Import/2014 dated 06.08.2014 that "animal" as an animal belonging to any of the species specified below: (i) Ovines (ii) Caprines (iii) Suillines (iv) Bovines and includes poultry & fish. It has also directed that the slaughtering of animals of any other species other than the one listed above is not permissible under the Food Safety and Standards Act, Rules and Regulations. This effectively means that camels cannot be slaughtered for food at all. Also, wherever, the cow slaughter prohibition Act is in force, then slaughtering of cows will be the violation of the law. The few judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and High Court(s) are mentioned.
4. The Board had issued a circular no.9-2/2018-19/IC dated 30.05.2022 (copy enclosed) with a request to implement and circulate Regulatory compliance for slaughterhouses and meat shops.
5. Few judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and High Courts regarding slaughter of animals are as below-
 - i. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 16.11.1994 passed the order in the matter titled 'State of West Bengal' v. 'Ashutosh Lahiri and others', in Civil Appeals Nos. 6790 of 1983 with 6791 to 6794 of 1983.
 - ii. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India judgment dated 7.5.2014 in the matter titled AWBI Vs Nagaraja & Ors-(SLP-(C). No. 11686 of 2007) has issued strong directions to all the agencies and instrumentalities of the State, including law enforcement authorities, to uphold animal right and protection laws. Failure to do so will be tantamount to failure to adhere to the same as well.

- iii. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Laxmi Narain Modi vs. Union of India & Ors., WP(C) 309/2003 has passed exhaustive direction for the slaughterhouses and included that maintaining of record of all slaughterhouses, ensuring compliance of slaughterhouses with relevant laws, to ensure responsible waste management (effluent, viscera etc), as well as to the constitution of a State Slaughterhouse Monitoring Committee under chairmanship of Secretary of the Department of Urban Development in every State is a must for operating and maintaining of slaughter houses.
- iv. The Kerala High Court in its judgment dated 05.12.2005 passed the order in the Writ Petition No. 30754 of 2005 titled 'Siraj vs District Collector'.
- v. The Karnataka High Court in its judgment dated 06.01.2009 passed the order in the matter Writ Petition No. 14432 of 2008 titled 'Animal Rights Fund Vs. State of Karnataka'.
- vi. The Hon'ble High Court of Madras in its order dated 6.8.2014 in W.P. No. 28313 of 2013, Blue Cross vs State of Tamil Nadu & Ors has given a Judgment that "the concerned authorities are directed to ensure compliance of the rules and norms of slaughtering."
- vii. The Hon'ble High Court of Madras in its order dated 06.04.2022 in, W.P.No.11519 of 2015, People for Cattle in India Vs State of Tamil Nadu and others stated that *we dispose of it with a direction to the respondents to take all the measures to stop illegal trafficking of Camel or slaughtering.*

All the above orders are available in our website: www.awbi.gov.in



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India

(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)

(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

DR. ABHIJIT MITRA,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY COMMISSIONER AND
CHAIRMAN

F.No.AC-02003/2/2025-AWBI

Date: 12th August, 2025

To

1. The Chief Secretary of all the States and UTs

2. The Director General of Police of all the States

Subject: Request to prevent illegal transportation and slaughtering of animals – regarding.

Ref. : This office letter of even number dated 03.06.2025 (copy enclosed)

Sir/Madam,

Kindly refer to this office letter dated 03.06.2025 on the above-cited subject.

2. In continuation of the above, all concerned authorities are once again requested to ensure strict compliance with the relevant provisions of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960* and the associated Rules, as detailed in the referenced letter. Proactive measures must be taken to prevent any unnecessary pain or suffering to animals.

3. In view of the upcoming festive season, it is reiterated that special vigilance and necessary preventive steps be taken to curb illegal transportation and slaughter of animals, and to ensure humane treatment at all stages.

4. You are also requested to widely disseminate this message to raise public awareness through posters, social media platforms, Twitter, and other forms of electronic and print media.

5. Further, a detailed monthly Action Taken Report (ATR) may kindly be submitted to the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to facilitate monitoring of the effective implementation of the above provisions at the grassroots level.

A line of confirmation in this regard is highly solicited.

Yours sincerely,

(Abhijit Mitra)

Encl.: as above

Copy to: for information and further necessary action please.

1. The Director, Animal Husbandry Department of all the States and UTs.
2. The Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Board of all the States and UTs.
3. The Commissioner, Municipal Corporations of all the Districts in all the States and UTs.
4. The Members and Co-opted Members, Animal Welfare Board of India



सत्यमेव जयते

डॉ. एस. के. दत्ता
Dr. S. K. Dutta
सचिव / Secretary



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड
ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

भारत सरकार

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय
(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)

Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

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3. In view of the upcoming festival season, it is once again reiterated that special vigilance and necessary preventive steps be taken to curb illegal transportation and slaughter of animals, and to ensure humane treatment at all stages.
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5. Further, a detailed **monthly Action Taken Report** (ATR) may kindly be submitted to the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to facilitate monitoring of the effective implementation of the provisions at the grassroots level.

A line of confirmation in this regard is highly solicited.

Yours sincerely,


(Dr. S.K. Dutta)

Encl.: as above

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1. The Members and Co-opted Members, Animal Welfare Board of India