



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड
ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Government of India



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अध्यक्ष / Chairman

OBSERVANCE OF WORLD RABIES DAY - 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

World Rabies Day is observed annually on 28 September to raise awareness of rabies prevention and promote collective action towards its elimination.

Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease, most commonly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected animal. The theme for World Rabies Day 2026, "Stronger Together", highlights the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility among communities, veterinary professionals, healthcare workers, local authorities and animal welfare organisations in achieving a rabies-free India.

The Animal Welfare Board of India calls upon all State Animal Welfare Boards, Animal Welfare Organisations, Urban Local Bodies, District Animal Husbandry Departments, animal welfare activists and citizens to actively observe World Rabies Day 2026. The occasion may be utilised to organise awareness programmes, anti-rabies vaccination drives and community initiatives in line with the National Action Plan for Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination from India by 2030.

All concerned stakeholders are requested to undertake suitable activities, including:

1. **Mass dog vaccination:** - Organise anti-rabies vaccination campaigns for community dogs and pet dogs in coordination with the concerned local authorities and veterinary services.
2. **Strengthening the Animal Birth Control Programme:-** Support humane and effective implementation of the Animal Birth Control Programme in collaboration with Urban Local Bodies and other concerned authorities as an important component of responsible dog population management.
3. **Vaccination of pets and livestock:-** Encourage pet owners, dairy farmers, livestock owners and other animal caregivers to ensure timely anti-rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, cattle and other susceptible animals, as advised by qualified veterinary professionals.
4. **Information, education and communication activities:-** Disseminate awareness material through posters, leaflets, social

media, veterinary hospitals, schools, colleges, community centres and other public platforms. The material may promote awareness of rabies prevention, responsible animal care and the need for timely medical attention after animal bites or scratches.

5. **Capacity building and training:-** Organise training programmes for veterinarians, para-veterinarians, animal welfare organisations, field staff and other stakeholders on rabies prevention, safe animal handling, vaccination and responsible community engagement.
6. **School, college and community engagement:-** Conduct awareness lectures, interactive sessions and outreach programmes to promote safe, compassionate and responsible interaction with animals.

Rabies prevention requires sustained and coordinated action. Mass dog vaccination, responsible animal care, effective implementation of the Animal Birth Control Programme, timely medical care for bite victims and public awareness are essential for rabies elimination.

All stakeholders are requested to actively participate in the observance of World Rabies Day on 28 September 2026 and organise suitable awareness and vaccination activities. Photographs, videos, press clippings and brief reports of the activities undertaken may kindly be shared with the Animal Welfare Board of India for highlighting in its publications and awareness initiatives.

Stronger Together for a Rabies-Free India.



(Dr. Muthukumarasamy B.)
Chairman
Animal Welfare Board of India

Copy to:

1. The Directors of Animal Husbandry Departments of all States and Union Territories.
2. The Member Secretaries of State Animal Welfare Boards of all States and Union Territories.
3. The Commissioners of Municipal Corporations and other Urban Local Bodies.
4. The District Collectors of all States and Union Territories.
5. The Members and Co-opted Members of the Animal Welfare Board of India.
6. All AWBI-recognised Animal Welfare Organisations.
7. All Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives.