



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

Observance of World Animal Day on 4th October, 2026

World Animal Day is observed globally on **4th October every year** as a day dedicated to raising awareness and promoting action for the welfare and protection of animals. The day coincides with the feast of **St. Francis of Assisi**, the patron saint of animals and nature, and has evolved into a worldwide occasion for recognising and promoting the welfare of animals in all their forms.

2. The **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)**, a statutory body established under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, is mandated to promote animal welfare and to ensure that animals are protected from unnecessary pain and suffering.

3. Animals form an integral part of human life and contribute significantly to **ecological balance, environmental sustainability, agriculture, livelihoods, cultural heritage and companionship**. Promoting awareness regarding responsible care and humane treatment of animals is, therefore, an important aspect of fostering a compassionate society.

4. In view of the above, all concerned stakeholders are **advised to observe World Animal Day, 2026, on 4th October, 2026**, in a meaningful and befitting manner. The following activities may, inter alia, be undertaken:

- (i). **Organise awareness programmes, seminars, workshops and community outreach activities** on animal welfare and responsible animal care;
- (ii). **Promote humane education** among students, children and the general public, with emphasis on compassion, responsible ownership and prevention of cruelty to animals;
- (iii). **Support animal shelters, rescue activities and other animal welfare initiatives**, as appropriate;
- (iv). **Create awareness regarding and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations and policies relating to animal welfare and prevention of cruelty to animals;**
- (v). **Highlight the role and contribution of animals** to the environment, agriculture, livelihoods, culture and human society; and

- (vi). Encourage **community participation and responsible engagement** in initiatives aimed at improving the welfare and protection of animals.
5. The State/UT authorities, Urban Local Bodies, educational institutions, Animal Welfare Organisations, Gaushalas, corporates and other stakeholders are encouraged to undertake suitable activities in accordance with their respective mandates and resources and to give wide publicity to such initiatives for greater public awareness.
6. The concerned organisations/authorities are further requested to **share press clippings, photographs and videos of the activities undertaken in observance of World Animal Day, 2026, with the Animal Welfare Board of India**, so that suitable activities may be highlighted through the Board's publications and other official communication channels.
7. The observance of World Animal Day provides an opportunity to reaffirm our collective responsibility towards the **humane treatment, protection and welfare of animals** and to promote greater public awareness and participation in animal welfare initiatives.

Digitally signed by
Dr. Maheshbhai Khanabhai Chauhan
Date: 02-10-2026 19:58:30

(Dr. M. K. Chauhan)
Secretary

Copy to: for information and necessary action

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.