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

HUMANE AND COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT OF ALL ANIMALS

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory advisory body established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (No. 59 of 1960) in the year 1962. The mandate of the Board is to promote animal welfare and to ensure that animals are protected from unnecessary pain and suffering.

Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India recognises compassion for living creatures as a fundamental duty of every citizen. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, also provides a legal framework for preventing unnecessary pain and suffering to animals.

One of the important functions of the Board, as per Section 9(k) of the Act, is to impart education in relation to the humane treatment of animals and to encourage the formation of public opinion against the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering to animals through lectures, books, posters, cinematographic exhibitions, and similar means.

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) appeals to all to promote humane, compassionate and responsible treatment towards all animals.

In view of the above, the following measures are recommended for the welfare and protection of all animals: -

i. All persons are urged to refrain from beating, kicking, torturing, frightening or otherwise causing unnecessary pain or suffering to any animal. Animals must not be subjected to deliberate injury, poisoning, abandonment or any form of inhumane treatment.

ii. Animals should be provided with adequate and appropriate food, clean drinking water, suitable shelter and necessary veterinary care. During periods of extreme heat, cold, heavy rainfall or other adverse weather conditions, appropriate protective measures should be taken to safeguard animals from exposure, dehydration, heat stress.

iii. Loud music, high-decibel sound, fireworks, firecrackers, sudden noises, excessive lighting and overcrowding can cause fear, distress to animals. Organisers of festivals, processions, weddings, public gatherings and other events should adopt animal-friendly practices and comply with applicable environmental and noise-control requirements. Fireworks and other activities should not be used to frighten, injure or harass animals.

iv. Animals must be handled, transported and housed in a manner that minimises fear, unnecessary pain and suffering. Adequate space, ventilation, water, rest and other necessary safeguards should be provided, as applicable.

v. During floods, fires, heatwaves, cold waves, cyclones and other emergencies, appropriate measures should be taken to protect animals from injury, dehydration, starvation and exposure.

vi. Any person witnessing an incident of animal cruelty, serious neglect, or abuse of an animal should promptly inform the appropriate authorities., as applicable, or a recognised animal welfare organisation.

The State/UT authorities, Urban Local Bodies, educational institutions, Animal Welfare Organisations, Gaushalas, corporates and other stakeholders are advised to comply with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the rules made thereunder. Any violation should be brought to the notice of the appropriate authority for necessary action in accordance with law.

Compassion towards animals should be encouraged through public awareness, educational initiatives and community participation.

Animal welfare is a collective responsibility that requires the active participation of individuals, communities, institutions and public authorities.

The Animal Welfare Board of India urges all concerned to uphold the principles of kindness, compassion and responsible coexistence and to ensure that animals are treated humanely in all circumstances.

Let compassion guide our actions. A humane society is one that recognises the value of every living being and strives to prevent unnecessary pain and suffering.

Yours sincerely,

Digitally signed by
Dr.Maheshbhai Khanabhai Chauhan
Date: 04-11-2026 18:14:32

(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 of the Animal Welfare Board of India.
6. All AWBI-recognised Animal Welfare Organisations.
7. All Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives.