

### **Scheme for Birth Control and Immunization of stray Dogs and stray cats**

The system of indiscriminate destruction of stray dogs and cats to control their population and to minimize the incidence of rabies has not succeeded as per expectations. The municipal bodies have been killing stray dogs and cats under the pretext of controlling rabies and their population by Health Department. Though the Animal Welfare Board of India has been trying to control the dog population by encouraging the voluntary organizations to conduct sterilization programmes but the same have not had much impact owing to limited funding and the same applies to cats also. With a view to solving the problem, the Central Government is implementing the scheme for Birth Control and Immunization of stray Dogs and cats.

#### **Programme Objective:**

The basic objective of the scheme is to Control the population of stray dogs and cats by sterilization and to reduce the incidence zoonotic disease by immunization. The sterilization cum- immunization of stray dogs and cats will be conducted on area basis approach and proper records will be maintained.

#### **Under the programme, the following activities will be considered:**

**Activity I:** Assistance for Conducting Animal Birth Control: Under the scheme, the Central Government will provide assistance to the Local Authorities in urban and peri urban areas.

The assistance will be provided for (i) Conducting Animal Birth Control, (ii) management of dog bite cases (iii) Carrying out the Rabies Vaccination.

Eligible Entities to take the benefits are (i) Small Local Bodies in urban and peri-urban areas. (ii) Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)

Details of the scheme: The organization who are carrying out the Animal Birth Control Programme as per the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 will be provided would be given financial assistance in the manner as stated in **Annexure-I** for sterilization and immunization of stray dogs and cats.

Eligibility for assistance and descriptions of the manner in which the scheme will be Implemented including the agency through which the scheme will be executed:

1. Under the scheme, the funds will be provided to the SPCAs / Local Bodies by the Board through the State Animal Welfare Board on receipt of the application in the prescribed proforma and subject to the terms and condition laid down for the purpose. If the State Animal Welfare Board is not active in any area, the Board may provide the funds to the Local Bodies /SPCAs directly.
2. All sterilized dogs and cats would be identified prominently by way of notching of right ear at the time of sterilization while the dog / cat is still under the effect of anesthesia.
3. At the project formation stage, the implementing agency shall submit a detailed proposal indicating the number of animals which are likely to be sterilized and immunized in the current year, and total expenditure to be incurred for the purpose. If the actual expenditure is below the grants sanctioned for this purpose, the unutilized amount shall be refunded to the Central Govt.

Application and Sanction:

1. The SPCA or Local Bodies wishing to apply for assistance under the scheme will send its application in the prescribed proforma to the Board along through online portal with all the relevant documents like evidence of census of dogs in area of activity, collaborative arrangement with Municipal Corporation / Local Body concerned and audited financial statements, Memorandum of Association, composition of Governing

Body, registration of Society and possession of competence to take up the work. On receipt of an application for grants-in-aid, inspection will be undertaken by the State Animal Welfare Board or any official as may be nominated through its Officer. Based on relevant documents and inspection report, the proposal will be processed.

2. The grants –in-aid for a particular project undertaking the entire project of Birth Control and Immunization will be released in two equal installments or such number of installments as may be appropriate. The first installment will be released as soon as the application submitted by the organization is approved by the Animal Birth Control Committee and the second installment will be provided after completion of the project. The organization shall before it receives assistance from the Board, execute a indemnity bond valid for five years in the prescribed proforma to the effect that in the event of its failure to comply with any or all the conditions, the grants-in-aid shall be liable to be refunded in whole or such part of the grant as the Board may decide with interest thereon.
3. Proposal for the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment will be submitted along with the following documents.
  - (a) Utilization Certificate for the 1<sup>st</sup> installment duly certified by the Chartered Accountant.
  - (b) Certificate of Sterilization and Immunization by Municipal Corporation / Local Body.
  - (c) Other documents to be prescribed by the Board.

#### Inspection

The Board from time to time will specify the nature, type and periodicity of the inspection and audit. The agency to carry out the inspection and audit will be designated by the Board.

#### Termination of grants-in-aid:

If the Board is not satisfied with the progress of the project or it finds that the scheme is not being implemented, it reserves the right to terminate the grants-in-aid.

### **Activity II: Strengthening of Veterinary Hospital for carrying out the Animal Birth Control Programme**

The Animal Welfare Board of India will provide one time Grants to the Veterinary Dispensaries or Hospitals run by the State Animal Husbandry Department and intended for conducting Animal Birth Control Surgery for establishment of Operation Theatre, Kennels, Pre and post Operative care. The one time grant will be provided as stated in **Annexure-II**.

#### **Objective:**

The assistance will be provided to meet the shortcomings of the infrastructure for control of Dog Population.

#### **Criteria for selection:**

- a) The Department of Animal Husbandry will file an application seeking funds from the Animal Welfare Board of India.
- b) The Veterinary Dispensary shall have its own infrastructure.
- c) The State has posted the specialist in the Hospital

Flow of Fund: The fund will be placed at the State Animal Welfare Board of India. The State Animal Welfare Board of India.

### **Activity III: Assistance for Innovation:**

The AWBI will provide assistance to the R&D Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations, University, Trust, Societies for developing innovative ideas on Animal Welfare Activities, animal birth control, shelter management, stray animal population management and other activities related to establishment of animal welfare.

The AWBI will form an Expert Committee for screening the proposals received from the intended organization.

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## **Annexure-I**

For Stray Dogs:

- (i) 50% cost of Dog-catching and admission to ABC Center and release to areas from where captured, cost for Pre-operation care, surgery and post operative care including Anti Rabies Vaccination and feeding – up to Rs.800/- per stray dog.

For Stray Cats:

- (i) 50% cost of cat-catching and admission to ABC Center and release to areas from where captured, cost for Pre-operation care, surgery and post operative care including Anti Rabies Vaccination and feeding – up to Rs.600/- per cat.

**Annexure-II**

Eligible entity	Purpose	Eligible grant
The Veterinary Dispensaries or Hospitals run by the State Animal Husbandry Department	The grant will be provided for conducting Animal Birth Control Surgery for establishment of Operation Theatre, Kennels, Pre and post-operative care.	One time grant will be of Rs. 200 Lakh.