

**ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA**

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
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F. No.AC-01003/1/2024-AWBI

To,

1. All the Chief Secretaries of States and UT's.
2. All the Compassionate Citizens, Animal Owners and Care takers.

Subject: Request to avoid exposure of direct heat and to take care of animals during extreme hot weather -regarding.

Sir/Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a Statutory Body established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, with the primary mandate of promoting animal welfare and preventing unnecessary pain or suffering inflicted upon animals. As an advisory board to the Government on matters pertaining to animal protection, issuing circulars and guidelines to safeguard animal welfare falls well within our statutory powers.

2. It is stated that as we approach the sweltering summer months, it is imperative to pay special attention to the well-being of our animals. The animals, including but not limited to dogs, are particularly vulnerable to heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heatstroke, and burns from hot surfaces. Thus, as compassionate citizens, it is our responsibility to ensure their safety and comfort during these challenging conditions.

3. It is essential to recognize that under Section 3 of the PCA Act, 1960, it is the duty of the person having charge of an animal to take all reasonable measures to ensure its well-being and to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering upon it. Failure to do so, as specified under various provisions of Section 11(1), cruelty is a punishable offence. Some essential steps that individuals can take to help safeguard animals are as under :

- i. **Provide Ample Shelter:** Ensure that animals have access to shaded areas throughout the day. Construct make-shift shelters from environment-friendly materials or provide natural shade from trees or structures to protect them from direct sunlight.
- ii. **Placing Water Bowls and Pots:** Hydration is a key to combating heat stress. Regularly replenish water bowls with clean, fresh water and place them in shaded areas to prevent overheating as well as near wells / handpumps etc.. Consider using bigger earthen pots with wide opening or containers that cannot be easily tipped over by the animals.
- iii. **Monitor for Signs of Heat Stress:** Be vigilant for symptoms of heat exhaustion or heatstroke, including excessive panting, lethargy, drooling, rapid heartbeat, and collapse. Seek immediate veterinary attention if any signs of distress are observed.

iv. **Awareness:** Spread awareness about the importance of protecting and guarding animals from extreme heat within your community. Encourage fellow guardians to implement similar preventive measures and provide assistance if needed.

4. It is pertinent to note that Sub-Rule 3 of Rule 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animal Rules, 1965, stipulates that no person shall use any animal for drawing vehicles or carrying loads in areas where the temperature exceeds 37°C between 12 noon and 3:00 pm. Also, Rule 12 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Transportation of Animals on Foot) Rules 2001 prohibits the transportation of animals on foot if the temperature exceeds 30°C or outside the hours between sunrise and sunset.

5. Further, India is set to experience extreme heat conditions, it is incumbent upon all compassionate citizens and caretakers of the animals to take proactive measures to protect the animals from heat-related illnesses and distress.

6. In view of the foregoing, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) urges all individuals and organizations responsible for the care of these animals to take proactive measures to shield them from the adverse effects of extreme heat. Also, the concern departments are requested to issue necessary direction and ensure the proper implementation of the statutory Rules so that there is no unnecessary pain or suffering to the animals due to extreme weather conditions.

7. In addition to the above, it is informed that all the advisories and circular of the AWBI are available on the website of AWBI (www.awbi.gov.in). Your Co-operation and Co-ordination are highly solicited for the welfare of the Animals.

Yours Sincerely

(Dr. S. K Dutta)
Secretary

Copy to for information and necessary actions:

1. All the District Collector of all the States /UT's
2. All the Director General of Police of all the States/UT's.
3. The Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Board of all States /UTs
4. All the Municipal Computation of all the States/UTs
5. The Chairman, AWBI.