

**MINUTES OF THE 129TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD
HELD ON 11.07.2024 AT CHANDERLOK BUILDING, NEW DELHI**

The 129th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of the Board held on 11.07.2024 at 12.00 Noon at the Conference Room, Chanderlok Building, Janpath Road, New Delhi and the following were present in the meeting: -

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| 1. Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, IFS | Chairman, AWBI |
| 2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | Member, AWBI |
| 3. Dr.S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | Member, AWBI |
| 4. Shri Girish J. Shah | Member, AWBI |
| 5. Dr. ManilalValliyate | Member, AWBI |
| 6. Shri Sunil Mansinghka | Member, AWBI – Online. |
| 7. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi | Member, AWBI – Online. |
| 8. Dr. S.K. Dutta | Secretary, AWBI |
| 9. Smt.Prachi Jain | Asst. Secretary, AWBI |

The nomination of the Representative of the Ministry of Finance is not received yet. Dr. Hitesh Jani, Member AWBI could not attend the ECM meeting due to his prior engagements.

The Chairman, AWBI welcomed all the Members of the Executive Committee of the Board and then requested the Secretary, AWBI to start the meeting. The details of the agenda items discussed are given as under: -

Item No.1: Consideration of the matter pertaining to the proposal received from Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura, UP for organizing 07 days training program for Veterinary Graduates and Para-vets at Veterinary University.

The request received from Prof. Desh Deepak Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Science & A.H, U.P., Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura, U.P. for organizing 07 days training programme for Veterinary Graduates and Paravets at Veterinary University aiming to sensitize the Veterinary Graduates and Veterinary Diploma holders to make them aware about animal cruelty and humane treatment of animals with special reference to dog welfare and rabies management through imparting 7 days training on "Dogs welfare and human health" proposed for 20 veterinarians /para-veterinarians for preparing trained human resources to promote animal welfare aspect in the society to make people aware about dogs' welfare and rabies management was placed before the Executive Committee of the Board for consideration. The total expenditure demanded by the Veterinary University is Rs.230200/-.

Dr.Manilal Valliyate suggested that there is a need of modifying the contents of the training program as the topics covered in the presented training program are general in nature and all the Veterinarians and Para-vets must be aware of it.

Shri Rajeev Gupta suggested that Dr. Manilal Valliyate and Prof. R.S. Chauhan may be requested to check the contents of the training program and shall modify the same as per the need to make it more effective and useful. He further

suggested that such programs should be available in the recorded audio visual format to keep them available on the website of the Board for its further use.

Shri Girish J. Shah suggested that such training programs should be organized at larger places as compared to the small areas to make them broad based and more useful.

The Executive Committee of the Board deliberated on the matter and decided that the proposal may be considered with modifications in the contents of the training programme which will be done in coordination with Prof. R.S. Chauhan and Dr.Manilal Valliyate, Members of the Board and the training program may be organized on the occasion of the World Rabies Day and may be inaugurated by the Minister, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Item No.2: Consideration of the matter pertaining to finalization of the applications of the Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Awards

The matter pertaining to finalization of the application formats for the Prani Mitra and Jeev Daya Awards of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2024 along with the comments / suggestions received from the Award and Event Committee members of the Board was placed before the EC for consideration. The EC after due deliberation on the matter decided that the relevant comments / suggestions of the Award and Events Committee members and also of the EC Members to be incorporated in the application to make it more useful to gather more details about the candidates applying for the awards which should make use to the Jury to decide on the candidature for the awards. It was decided during the EC meeting that Assistant Secretary and HEO of the Board to finalize the application formats incorporating the suggestions of the members and the final compiled application to be circulated to the EC Members for their approval.

Shri Rajeev Gupta suggested that the marking to be done by the jury based on the framework done by the Board through its existing Award and Events Committee. He further suggested that the personnel having exemplary contribution in the field of animal welfare may be given extra marking.

Shri Sunil Mansinghka suggested that the Board to incorporate various new fields in its application criteria including breed improvement of indigenous cows, stray cattle management for dry cows, organic farming, use of bi-products, bull driven agriculture, panchagavya, idol making from cow dung, protection of cows, training programs conducted pertaining to the animal welfare etc. so that the real and grass root level animal welfare personnel could be encouraged for doing the noble cause.

Shri S.P. Gupta suggested that the all application categories could be combined for the awardees and the number of awards may be increased.

The Chairman AWBI recommended that the jury should consider any nomination recommended by the selection committee. Additionally, he highlighted the benefits of having different categories to promote individuals working in the field of animal welfare.

Item No.3: Consideration of the matter pertaining to recommendations by Ex Members of Parliament for issuing Colony Animal Care Taker (CACT) and Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives (HAWR)

The matter pertaining to the recommendations by Ex Members of Parliament for issuing Colony Animal Care Taker (CACT) authorization and Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives (HAWR) nomination was placed for consideration of the Executive Committee of the Board for clarification whether the recommendations of the Ex Members of the Parliament to be considered for issuing the authorization and nominations or not as the Board has earlier decided that the recommendations of the Member of Parliaments in the applications for issuing these Cards and authorization letters is considered.

The EC members after due deliberation on the matter decided that the recommendations of the local Members of Parliament (MPs)/ Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) / Members of AWBI / Co-opted members of Committees of the Board /Members of State Animal Welfare Boards / District Animal Husbandry Officers / DSPCAs / Municipal Corporations / Councils / Head of the Recognized Organization and Ex-Member of Parliaments will be considered for nomination of HAWR. In case of CACT authorization, the recommendations of HAWRs / President of RWAs / AoAs in addition to the above recommending authorities will also be considered.

Item No.4: Consideration of the matter pertaining to Revised Guidelines of the consolidated scheme for Animal Welfare

The matter pertaining to the revised guidelines for the consolidated scheme for Animal Welfare instead of the ongoing animal welfare schemes being implemented by the Board was placed before the EC. The Board during its earlier meetings had recommended that only two schemes in effect i.e. Regular and Rescued Cattle Grant and the Provision of Shelter House for looking after the animals, remaining 3 schemes i.e. (i) Provision of Ambulance Services/Animal Helpline to Animals in Distress (ii) Relief to Animals during the Natural Calamities and Unforeseen Circumstances and (iii) Animal Birth Control & Immunization of Stray Dogs are either being implemented by the States / UTs or have become infructuous.

After due deliberation on the matter, the EC decided that the Board to finalize the components of the consolidated scheme for Animal Welfare and forward the same to the Ministry for its approval so that the same could be implemented by the Board from the current financial year 2024-25.

Item No.5: Consideration of matter pertaining to Boarding Kennels

The matter pertaining to boarding kennels for the dogs with reference to the Antony Clement Rubin's request for creation of separate regulations under Section 38(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, specifically for pet boarding facilities in Tamil Nadu wherein the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, in its judgment dated 03.06.2024 in Writ Petition No. 12709 of 2024 titled "Antony Clement Rubin Versus State of Tamil Nadu and Ors," directed the respondent authorities, including the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) (impleaded as Respondent No.4), to consider the representations of the petitioners dated 15.02.2024 and pass orders on

merits and in accordance with law within eight weeks from the date of receipt of the order was placed before the EC of the Board.

The EC of the Board after due deliberation on the matter decided that Dr. Manilal will draft the model Bylaws for boarding kennels with the directives to the Municipal Corporations / Local Bodies to adhere, implement and monitor these bylaws in their respective localities.

Item No. 6: Points raised by Sh. Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)

The points raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta, Member AWBI were placed before the EC of the Board and the following decision was made: -

- (1) Relief to animals during natural calamities – There is lesser focus on animal welfare during the natural calamities and the stray animals are left unattended. The EC decided that the work pertaining to animal welfare need to be sourced as per the guidelines of the NDMA and a letter need to be written from the Board to the NDMA & Disaster Management Authorities of all the States / UTs on this issue and the letter also to be circulated to the Board Members in the group for value addition.
- (2) Issues related to smuggling of cattle/beef and cow slaughter – The EC decided to check the genuineness of the such matters before taking any further action.
- (3) Enhancement of the budget of AWBI – The Chairman informed that the matter is already under consideration in the Ministry.
- (4) Meetings with the States' Ministers/Secretaries/Directors Animal Husbandry – Chairman informed the EC that it will be done during meeting of Hon'ble Minister with the States / UTs.
- (5) Animal Husbandry officers at various levels to be nominated as nodal officers for Animal Welfare in their territorial jurisdiction – The Chairman directed that a letter in this regard will be issued to all States / UTs.
- (6) Implementation of the decisions of earlier Board/EC meetings – The EC discussed that the Board / EC of the Board should meet once in every two months physically or through virtual mode. It was also suggested by the Secretary that the EC is the part of the day to day working of the office and every matter pertaining finances / expenditure etc. should be placed before the EC for their approval.
- (7) Discussion on video regarding cow slaughtering in the State of Uttar Pradesh–The EC discussed on the issue and decided that the matter should be checked for its genuineness through the sources it has been received before taking any action.

Agenda Item No. 7: Points raised by Sh. Girish Shah

The points raised by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI were placed before the EC of the Board and the following decision were made: -

- (1) Animal Welfare Initiative
 - (i) Progress report on ongoing projects – The progress of ongoing projects was briefed by the Secretary AWBI to the members of the EC.
 - (ii) Proposals for new welfare initiatives and programs – The details for new initiatives were also briefed by the Secretary and the EC decided that all such matters should be brought to the notice of the EC / Board members through the AWBI Members group.
- (2) Regulations and Policies
 - (i) Review and discussion of current animal welfare laws and regulations - The progress of the animal welfare laws was briefed by the Secretary AWBI to the members of the EC.
 - (ii) Recommendations for amendments or new policies. PCA Act to be pushed in coming session – The Secretary informed that the matter is being taken up at the Ministerial level.
- (3) Funding and Resources
 - (i) Financial status update – The EC was informed about the budget allocation of the Board for the Financial Year 2024-25 i.e. Rs. 1000.00 lakhs.
 - (ii) Fundraising strategies and grant applications – The EC decided that Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI to write to the Vedanta Group or such other groups for donation to the Board under CSR scheme. The Chairman also suggested that the Board may issue an advisory to encourage CSR funding in Animal Welfare as well as request to Ministry of Corporate Affairs to take necessary action for the same.
 - (iii) Allocation of resources for various projects.
- (4) Public Awareness and Education
 - (i) Strategies for increasing public awareness about animal welfare.
 - (ii) Educational programs and collaborations with schools and communities.
- (5) Enforcement and Compliance
 - (i) Review of compliance with animal welfare regulations.
 - (ii) Strategies to improve enforcement and tackle violations.
- (6) Collaboration with NGOs and International Bodies
 - (i) Partnership opportunities with non-governmental organizations.
 - (ii) Collaboration with international animal welfare organizations.
- (7) Research and Data Collection
 - (i) Importance of research in improving animal welfare practices.
 - (ii) Proposal for data collection and analysis on animal welfare issues.
- (8) Rescue and Rehabilitation
 - (i) Updates on rescue operations and rehabilitation programs.

- (ii) Discussion on improving rescue infrastructure and resources.
- (9) Miscellaneous
 - (i) Any other business.
 - (ii) Open floor for committee members to raise additional points.
- (10) Closing Remarks
 - (i) Summary of decisions taken.
 - (ii) Next steps and assignments.
 - (iii) Closing address by the Chairperson.
- (11) Key Discussion Points:
 - (i) Status Update on Animal Shelters:
 - (ii) Current conditions and capacity.
 - (iii) Improvements needed.
- (12) Wildlife Conservation Efforts:
 - (i) Collaboration with forest departments.
 - (ii) Strategies to protect endangered species.
- (13) Stray Animal Management:
 - (i) Effective methods for managing stray animal populations.
 - (ii) Spaying/neutering programs.
- (14) Humane Treatment of Animals:
 - (i) Campaigns against animal cruelty.
 - (ii) Promoting humane treatment practices.
- (15) Emergency Response Plan:
 - (i) Developing a plan for natural disasters and other emergencies.
 - (ii) Ensuring animal safety and rescue operations.
- (16) Technological Integration:
 - (i) Use of technology in animal welfare activities.
 - (ii) Creating databases and apps for tracking and reporting.
- (17) Volunteer and Community Engagement:
 - (i) Encouraging volunteer participation.
 - (ii) Community-driven initiatives for animal welfare.
- (18) By addressing these points, we can ensure a comprehensive discussion that covers all critical aspects of animal welfare and leads to effective decision-making.

The remaining agenda raised by Sh. Girish Shah Ji mentioned at Point No.4 to 18 was deliberated for further necessary consideration.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to Chair.
