

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Minutes of the 53rd General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 09.01.2025 at NARFBR, Hyderabad, Telangana

The following members of the Board attended the meeting on 09.01.2025 at 11.00 a.m. physically and virtually at NARFBR, Hyderabad, Telangana: -

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| 1. Dr. Abhijit Mitra, AHC, DAHD, MoFAH&D | - | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Member |
| 3. Prof. R.S. Chauhan | - | Member |
| 4. Shri Sunil Mansinghka | - | Member |
| 5. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi | - | Member |
| 6. Dr. Manilal Valliyate | - | Member |
| 7. Dr. Hitesh Jani | - | Member |
| 8. Ms. Anjali Gopalan | - | Member |
| 9. Dr. Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Director, NAR-FBR
Hyderabad – Rep. of ICMR | - | Member |
| 10. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar | - | Member |
| 11. Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Member (Attended virtually) |
| 12. Shri Dhan Pal Singh | - | Member (Attended virtually) |
| 13. Dr. S.K. Dutta, Joint Commissioner (AWD)
MoFAH&D | - | Secretary In-charge, AWBI |
| 14. Smt. Prachi Jain | - | Assistant Secretary, AWBI |

The Chairman AWBI welcomed the Members of the Board in the 53rd General Meeting of the Board present in the meeting. Thereafter, the Chairman requested the Secretary AWBI to present the agenda items.

The Secretary & Assistant Secretary, AWBI presented the following agenda items before the Board during the meeting held on 09.01.2025: -

Item No.1: Ratifications of the Minutes of the various Committee meetings

The Minutes of the meetings of the various committees of the Board conducted after 54th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 26.11.2024 till 02.01.2025 were placed before the Board for ratification by the Board:

i) Ratification of the Minutes of the ABC Project Recognition Committee of the Board held on 04.12.2024

The Board ratified the minutes of the ABC Project Recognition Committee Meeting held on 04.12.2024.

ii) Ratification of the Minutes of the Performing Animals Committee held from 15.10.2024 to 02.01.2025

The Board ratified the 106 Pre-shoot Permissions and 211 No Objection Certificates issued to the concerned after approval of the Chairman, AWBI during the 14 number of meetings held from 15.10.2024 to till 02.01.2025.

iii) Intimation of the Meetings of Award and Event Committee held on 06.12.2024, 17.12.2024 and 18.12.2024

The Board was appraised about the three meetings of the Award and Event Committee meeting for screening of 120 Nos. of application received for Prani Mitra and Jeevdaya Award under various categories and the same was noted by the Board.

Item No.2: Consideration of the matter pertaining to General Donation received by the Board for its utilization

The matter pertaining to General Donations received by the Board from the concerned citizens / organizations for welfare of the animals having Rs.13,60,887.12 deposited in State Bank of India, Sikri bearing account No. 624661874155 was placed before the Board for consideration of utilization of the amount deposited under the General Donation account of the Board.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter decided that if the Board is receiving donation under General Donation without mention of the purpose, the fund shall be treated as General Donation and should be utilized for the purpose deemed suitable / for furtherance of Animal Welfare cause / for the purposes decided by the Board.

Item No.3: Consideration of the matter pertaining to Specific Donation received by the Board and its utilization.

The matter pertaining to the specific donations for the purpose of welfare of animals having an amount of Rs.33,26,298.00 till 31.12.2024 deposited in State Bank of India, Sikri bearing account No. 62461874213 was placed before the Board for consideration and utilization of the amount deposited in the Specific Donation account of the Board.

Secretary, AWBI suggested that funds may be utilized for running the Mobile Animal Clinic facility at its headquarters which was being run by the Board at Chennai as the Board is having a permanent driver and a Veterinarian.

Chairman suggested that since the members of the Board are not having any solid suggestions immediately, therefore, the Board Members may be provided 10-15 days time to give their suggestion for utilization on the donations received by the Board.

Item No.4: Consideration of the matter pertaining to fund received in the FCRA account of the Board under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

The Animal Welfare Board was having Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) registration bearing No.075900766 for which the Board is maintaining a separate bank account No.10029835025 in State Bank of India. The Board has not received any foreign contribution since the financial year 2016-17. The current status of FCRA registration at Ministry of Home affairs portal is "Deemed to have ceased (validity of certificate has expired)".

The Board has received the donation of Rs.12,020/- during the financial year 2024-25 and the total amount is Rs.2,58,750.33 in this account as on 31.12.2024. It is pertinent to mention that the amount is received from Indian Citizens. As per the FCRA rule only foreign contribution can be received in FCRA bank account. The details of FCRA account has now been removed from the website to avoid receiving amount.

The matter was placed before the Board for consideration of utilization of the amount deposited in the Foreign Contribution account of the Board.

The Board, after deliberation, decided that the matter may be referred to the Ministry seeking clarifications on the FCRA eligibility and the FCRA Account of the Board. Depending on the clarification, the FCRA Account may either be revived or closed.

Item No.5: Closure of NRCP account opened for maintaining the fund received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for implementation of National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)

The matter pertaining to National Rabies Control Programme in collaboration with NCDC, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOH&FW) under Animal Component of One Health Programme wherein the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) received the Grant- in-aid of Rs.6,81,28,812/- from NCDC, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOH&FW), New Delhi during the period from March 2014 to January, 2018 and Bank Interest Rs.10,97,885/- was credited upto 31st March, 2024 under the scheme of (NRCP) National Rabies Control Programme in SB A/c No.62461874291 out of which, the Board had released the total amount of Rs.6,80,19,289/- to the above mentioned organization for implementation of the said programme, was placed before the Board in connection with closing the account of the NRCP.

The Board has returned the balance amount alongwith the interest accrued amounting Rs.12,06,868/- to NCDC (MoH&FW). NRCP programme has now come to an end.

The Board after due deliberation decided that the account maintained by the Board for the purpose of NRCP programme bearing No.62461874291 may be closed.

Item No. 6: Consideration of matter pertaining to write-off the amount of Rs.0.44 Lac under the Regular Grant in the Balance Sheet of the Board

The matter pertaining to difference between the annual accounts of the Board under the closing balance of regular grant as on 31.03.2024 was Rs.42.23 lakh and the Utilization Certificates pertaining to the Regular Grant of Rs.41.79 lakh in the balance sheet under the head Corpus Capital Fund and Liabilities / Earmarked / Endowment Fund (Schedule-3) as on the same date. The difference of Rs.0.44 lakh needs to be reconciled which is not matching with each other.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter approved for writing off the matter to rectify the prolonged differences in the Balance Sheet of the Board.

Item No.7: Consideration of the matter pertaining to allocation of budget under various sub-head of Grant-in-aid General including Capital Assets for the FY 2025-26 as per the tentative BE received from the Ministry.

The Board is receiving applications from the AWBI Recognized Gaushalas / Animal Welfare Organizations under the Scheme of Regular and Rescued Cattle Grant through its online portal during the financial year 2024 - 25. As per the latest criteria approved by the Board time to time, the Board sanction and release the financial assistance to the recognized Gaushalas / AWOs. It was decided in the R&GC meeting held on 22.10.2024 to prepare a checklist for consideration of the financial assistance under Regular and Rescued Cattle grant.

Accordingly, the draft guidelines for providing financial assistance to the Animal Welfare Organization / Gaushalas under the scheme of Regular and Rescued Cattle Grant of the Board along with the checklist was placed before the Board for consideration and approval.

After due deliberation of the matter, the Board in its 54th AGM held on 26.11.2024 decided to drop the Regular and Rescued Cattle Grant Scheme of the Board as the funds provided to the Gaushalas / Animal Welfare Organizations is not having any output from the funds released by the Board.

It was further decided that the consolidated scheme prepared are under consideration of the Ministry which will be implemented out of the funds allocated to the Board from next financial year onwards.

The matter pertaining to utilization of the funds under Regular and Rescued Cattle Grant during the current financial year and next financial year i.e. 2025-26 onwards was placed before the Board for consideration. The Board after due

deliberation on the matter decided that the existing Regular and Rescue Cattle Grant scheme will continue with the slight modifications in the scheme guidelines which were approved by the Board during the meeting on 09.01.2025 with reallocation of the Budget. The reallocated budget is given below and the revised and approved Regular and Rescue Cattle Grant Scheme is attached at **Annexure – I.**

The approved details of the scheme-wise reallocation of fund for the financial year 2024-25 and 2025-26 are proposed as below: -

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	Schemes	RE. for 2024-25	Received as on date	B.E. for 2025-26
1	Grant in Aid Salary	350.00	300.00	330.00
2	Grant in Aid General (Admin & Office Expenses)	93.25	93.25	210.00
3	Grant-in-aid General (Capital Assets)	100.00	-	100.00
4	Grant-in-aid General (Humane Education)	80.00	-	140.00
5	Regular Grant and Rescue Cattle Grant	150.00	-	150.00
6	Provision of Shelter House	118.00	-	50.00
7	Provision of Ambulance Services	36.00	-	-
8	Animal Birth Control (ABC) Scheme	50.00	-	50.00
9	Natural Calamity Relief to Animals	6.75	-	-
	Total Budget	984.00	393.25	1030.00

The Board decided to keep fund in the existing scheme and decided to bring a new scheme for disbursement of funds else the Board will reallocate the amount in the next Board meeting.

Secretary, suggested that the Board has already proposed a new scheme which will cover the Regular Grant, Shelter House scheme and the ABC Scheme as the Board has to promote this. The Board will discontinue the Ambulance and Natural Calamity schemes.

The reallocated budget needs to be intimated to the Ministry for RE- 2024-25 and BE 2025-26.

Item No.8: Consideration of the matter pertaining to proposal received for Ambulance Grant and Shelter Grant

The matter pertaining to implementation of CSS Schemes and releasing grant-in-aid to the Gaushalas / AWOs / SPCAs / Local Bodies etc. under the CSS schemes i.e. Shelter House, Ambulance, ABC and Natural Calamity grants was placed before the Board along with the details of proposals pending under the shelter house & Ambulance schemes which were approved by the Grants Committee / Recognition & Grants Committee of the Board but could not be released so far due to want of documents / non-availability of sufficient funds etc.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter and going through the details of the Shelter House Grant proposals amounting to Rs.1,18,37,957/- and Ambulance Grant proposals amounting to Rs.36,00,000/- already approved by the Board were agreed by the Board to be released during the current financial year as per the **Annexure – II** and **Annexure – III** for Shelter House and Ambulance Grant respectively.

Further the Board also decided that the existing schemes will continue till the new scheme which is under consideration of the Ministry becomes effective after that the CSS schemes will be discontinued.

Item No.9: Permission for ABC / ARV Stray dog's sterilization training programme to Yash Domestic Research Centre (GJ275/2019)

The request received from Yash Domestic Research Centre seeking permission for ABC / ARV Stray dog's sterilization training programme in its Dog Sterilization Centre cum Animal Hospital, near Surmandir Cinema, Abu Highway, Palanpur-385001, Gujarat was placed before the Board.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter has decided to constitute a sub-committee to develop / upgrade the existing training module of AWBI incorporating all the required amendments in it to train the Veterinarians, Para-vets and Animal Handlers to minimize the cruelty / sufferings of the Dogs as well as for Recognition of these Training Centre(s).

Item No.10: Consideration of points raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Member AWBI

The points raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Member AWBI were placed before the Board for consideration: -

- i. Animal Welfare needs to be recognised as a subject and activity which is specifically included in the duty charts of concerned government functionaries at various levels. Secretary / Director, Animal Husbandry of the State should also function as Secretary / Director, Animal Welfare and

officers of Animal Husbandry Department down the line at Division, District and Block levels should formally work as animal welfare officers in addition to their other duties. Suitable powers under the PCA Act and other provisions can also be given to these officers. Then, they will be responsible for execution and co-ordination of animal welfare activities like their other duties.

- ii. Merely setting up a network of State Animal Welfare Boards and District SPCAs with Director, Animal Husbandry and Chief Veterinary Officers respectively as their member-secretaries is not sufficient to bring Animal Welfare in the mainstream of Government functioning, which involves budgeting, targets, implementation, monitoring and control. While activities like social welfare, besides their Boards and Committees, have an independent line of officers from top to bottom, animal welfare can be easily handled by the Animal Husbandry officers in addition to their other duties.

The Board deliberated on the above points raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd), Member AWBI and decided that letter from Chairman AWBI to the Principal Secretaries, Animal Husbandry Department of all the States / UTs will be addressed followed by letter from Secretary, DAHD to the Chief Secretary and a letter from Hon'ble Minister, MoFAH&D to the Chief Ministers of all States / UTs to synergize both the Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare activities. The Member AWBI need to provide detailed proposal for supporting the letters.

Item No.11: Consideration of points raised by Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI

The points raised by Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI were placed before the Board for consideration: -

1. Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI, presented a revised process for the performing animal registration and a revised application for registration. The Chairman advised the member to submit a draft SOP for consideration and implementation.
2. The member suggested for streamlining the ABC Project Recognition meetings, and the Chairman advised sharing the suggestions to refine the process.
3. Regarding his proposal to conduct a two-day workshop for all State AHD and SAWB officials on implementing key legal provisions, particularly where SAWB is the Prescribed Authority, the Chairman decided to constitute a Committee comprising of Sh. Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Dr. Manilal Valliyate and Ms. Anjali Gopalan for submitting a training module for consideration.

4. The member also suggested issuing an advisory on prohibited cruel practices in farmed animals, such as carrying chickens by their legs, debeaking, and forced moulting in poultry, and the use of gestation and farrowing crates in pig farming, as well as the illegal keeping and use of Macaca mulatta and practices like tail docking and ear cropping in companion animals. The Chairman advised sharing the draft advisories for consideration.
5. The member further suggested reactivating the Instagram handle of AWBI so that awareness and education activities regarding animal protection could be taken up through it. The Chairman advised the Assistant Secretary to initiate the work with support from Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI.

The meeting ended with the thanks to all the members and Chairman.
