



# भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

## ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India

(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)

(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

No.:AC-02003/4/2024-AWBI

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

To

The Chief Secretary of all the State Governments/UTs.

All the Resident Welfare Associations and Apartment Owner Association

**Subject:** Implementation of Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 – Guidelines for Local Bodies, RWAs, and AOAs – regarding.

**Ref.:** Letter dated 09th May, 2025 received from Confederation of Resident Welfare Associations (CoRWA) (copy enclosed)

Sir/Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory body established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, is mandated to ensure the promotion of animal welfare and to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering upon animals. Upholding the "Five Freedoms" of animals and ensuring humane treatment of community animals is an essential constitutional and statutory obligation under the law.

2. The Central Government has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 vide GSR 193(E) dated 10th March 2023, supersede the earlier ABC Rules of 2001. These rules have been framed in compliance with directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and various High Courts, which have consistently upheld the importance of a humane and scientific approach to street dog population management.

3. The ABC programme, based on WHO and OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) guidelines, has been globally recognized as the only effective, ethical, and sustainable method of controlling the street dog population. Sterilization of female dogs, in particular, is central to interrupting the reproductive cycle and bringing down dog population density over time. In contrast, indiscriminate relocation or culling has been proven ineffective, often leading to vacuum effect, territorial instability, and increased aggression among remaining dogs.

4. In light of the above, all Local Bodies are requested to ensure the prioritization of female dog sterilization under the ABC programme for maximum impact in terms of population control and public safety.

5. Further, it is important to highlight Rule 20 of the ABC Rules, 2023, wherein it shall be the responsibility of the Resident Welfare Association or Apartment Owner Association or the representative of the Local Body to ensure the provision of care and feeding of community animals residing within or around their premises. The Rule emphasizes inclusive community participation and recognizes the role of compassionate individuals in animal care. Accordingly, the RWAs, AOAs, and Local Body representatives are directed to ensure the following actions:

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- (i). to designate feed spots which are mutually agreed upon, keeping in mind the number of dog population and their respective territories and the feeding spots shall be far from children play areas, entry and exit points, staircase or in an area which is likely to be least frequented by children and senior citizen.
- (ii). to designate feeding time depending on the movement of children, senior citizens, sports which is likely to be least frequented by children and senior citizen.
- (iii). designated feeder shall ensure that there is no littering at the feeding location or violation of guidelines framed by the Resident Welfare Association or Apartment Owner Association or that areas.
- (iv). designated feeders are allowed to volunteer for the vaccination, catching and release of dogs to assist with the Animal Birth Control Program."

6. In addition, Resident Welfare Association or Apartment Owner Association or Local Body's representative are required to **maintain a register of community animals** in their area, with the following details:

- (i). Estimated population
- (ii). Sterilization status
- (iii). Anti-rabies vaccination records
- (iv). Identity of feeders or caregivers

This data may be integrated with Local Body records or shared with State Animal Welfare Boards for better tracking and coordination.

7. In view of the above, it is requested to issue necessary instructions to the Local Bodies to prioritize and intensify the sterilization of female dogs under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Programme, as a scientifically proven and sustainable measure for effective street dog population management. Further, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Apartment Owner Associations (AOAs) are urged to implement responsible and structured feeding practices for community dogs in accordance with Rule 20 of the ABC Rules, 2023. They are also advised to maintain proper records relating to the number of community dogs in their premises, including details of their sterilization and anti-rabies vaccination status. These coordinated efforts will facilitate the effective implementation of the ABC Rules, 2023, and play a crucial role in minimizing man-animal conflict while promoting coexistence.

8. Hindi Version follows.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Abhijit Mitra)

Copy to: for information and necessary action.

1. The Director General of Police of all the States/UTs.
2. The Director, Department of Animal Husbandry of all State Governments/UTs.
3. The Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Board of all the States/UTs.
4. The District Collector of all States /UTs.
5. The Municipal Commissioners of all the States and UTs.
6. The Members and Co-opted Members of the Board