



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)

Dr. Abhijit Mitra

Animal Husbandry Commissioner and
Chairman, AWBI

No.: 3-2/2023-24/PCA

Date: 4th August, 2025

To,

The Director General of Health Services

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Directorate General of Health Services

Email: dghs@nic.in

Subject: Request for Issuance of Directions to All Medical Institutions for Separate Recording of Dog Bites by Pet Dogs and Street Dogs-regarding.

Ref.: 1. AWBI Letter No. 3-2/2023-24/PCA dated 14.06.2023

2. DGHS Letter No. NRCP/55/260/03/2024/COH-NCDC dated 07th March, 2024

Sir/Madam,

In continuation of our correspondence referred above regarding the standard format for reporting dog bite cases, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) reiterates the urgent need to distinguish between pet dog and street (stray) dog bites. The format already includes fields for capturing dog ownership and category, thereby facilitating such classification.

2. Between 2018 and early 2023, Delhi reported over 1.27 lakh dog bite cases, and Mumbai recorded 3.53 lakh cases from 2018–2022. While some involve pet dogs, the lack of clear classification leads to all being logged as stray dog bites.

3. Effective dog bite management depends on distinguishing pet-related incidents, which are the owner's responsibility, from stray-related cases, which fall under local authority jurisdiction. Accurate classification is critical for appropriate interventions.

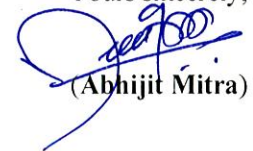
4. Proper categorization supports:

- **Public Health Surveillance:** Enables focused vaccination and awareness efforts.
- **Public Safety:** Understanding the source of dog bites helps identifying high-incidence areas for targeted street dog management.
- **Countering Misinformation:** Such a distinction would play a crucial role in dispelling misinformation surrounding incidents of dog bites
- **Responsible Pet Ownership:** holding pet owners accountable for their legal duties including sterilization and vaccination of the pet dogs thereby promoting responsible pet ownership.

5. Accurate reporting will improve understanding, guide control measures for street dog populations, and enhance public safety.

6. In view of the above, States and medical institutions may once again be advised to record pet and stray dog bite cases separately. An update on the action taken in this regard may kindly be shared.

Yours sincerely,


(Abhijit Mitra)

Copy for information to:

The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India,

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