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As per the 20th Livestock Census (2019), India has a livestock population of 53.2 crore, which includes an estimated 50 lakh stray cattle and 1.53 crore stray dogs. The growing stray animal population is leading to increasing concerns related to road safety, crop damage, and public grievances. In particular, the rise in stray dog bite incidents has become a serious public health and safety issue.

2. The constitutional framework entrusts Urban and Rural Local Bodies with the responsibility for animal husbandry including controlling and managing stray animals, including dogs, while the preservation of livestock breeds and prevention of animal diseases has traditionally been the mandate of State Animal Husbandry Departments.

3. In recent times, the Central Government has received numerous citizen complaints on the increasing incidence of dog bites and unregulated stray animal populations, including reports of crop damage. These concerns have been frequently raised in Parliament under Zero Hour and Rule 377. Given the seriousness of the matter, and following inter-ministerial deliberations, this joint advisory is being issued to request immediate and coordinated action by all States and Union Territories:


- I. All stray cattle in Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies should be registered on the Bharat Pashudhan Portal. Green-coloured ear tags may be used for stray cattle and collar tags for stray dogs. Local bodies may seek technical and operational support from the State Animal Husbandry Department. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, will facilitate the creation of User IDs for data entry on Bharat Pashudhan. Registration should also capture details of vaccination, sterilisation, and other health interventions, to be uploaded on the portal.

The necessary modification and Standard Operating Procedure is under development, and will be made available to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies for which training will be conducted by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying through State Governments.


- II. Sterilisation of stray dogs remains central to dog population management. The Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, notified by the Central Government, provide the regulatory framework. However, current infrastructure in many urban areas remains inadequate. All Urban Local Bodies are requested to establish Animal Birth Control units and roll out large-scale sterilisation programmes, targeting at least 70% of the stray dog population to achieve measurable outcomes. To ensure comprehensive coverage, the programme must extend to peri-urban and rural areas as well. In this regard, Gram Panchayats may coordinate with the State Animal Husbandry Department to conduct sterilisation drives through veterinary dispensaries with operational facilities.
 - III. Further, Stray Cattle vaccination for control of disease is also important specifically for Foot and Mouth Diseases and Brucellosis.
 - IV. It is to be mentioned here that some of the States like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have taken proactive steps to control the problem of stray cattle and dogs.
 - V. As mentioned earlier, the Panchayats need to bear the responsibility of maintaining Kanji House and Animal Shelters.
 - VI. We would request that the State should take initiatives to establish animal shelters for cattle from the state budget or Animal Welfare Organisations/ Non-Governmental Organisations in Panchayats/Urban Local Bodies.
4. You are requested to issue necessary instructions to all concerned authorities—Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, Nagar Panchayats, Zila Parishads, Gram Panchayats, and others—to take immediate and sustained action in line with this advisory.



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The Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories