



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. Muthukumarasamy B.

Joint Secretary and Chairman, AWBI

File No.: AC-02017/22/2025-AWBI

To,

The Chief Secretary

All State Governments and Union Territories

Subject: Circulation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in compliance with directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 07.11.2025 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025-regarding.

Sir/Madam

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its order dated 07.11.2025 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025 titled "City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price", has issued directions relating to the prevention of dog-bite incidents and the management of stray dogs within institutional premises, including educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands/depots, and railway stations.

2. The Hon'ble Court, in Paragraph J on Page 26 of the aforesaid order, has further directed the Animal Welfare Board of India to frame and circulate detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure a uniform national framework for prevention of dog-bite incidents and management of stray dogs in both public and private institutional areas.

3. In compliance with these directions of the Hon'ble Court, the SOP has been prepared and is hereby circulated for necessary implementation (copy enclosed).

4. It is requested that the following may kindly be ensured:

- (i). Circulation of the enclosed SOP to all concerned State departments, municipal bodies, district administrations, educational institutions, hospitals, public transport authorities, sports authorities and other relevant institutions.
- (ii). Uniform implementation of the SOP across the State/Union Territories.
- (iii). Monitoring of compliance at the ground level.

5. As the matter is under continuous monitoring of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, prompt compliance is required.

Yours Sincerely

[Signature] 27/11/25

(Dr. Muthukumarasamy B.)

Enclosure(s):

1. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Prevention of Dog-Bite Incidents and Management of Stray Dogs in Institutional Premises
2. Order dated 7.11.2025 in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR PREVENTION OF DOG BITES AND MANAGEMENT OF STRAY DOGS IN INSTITUTIONAL PREMISES

1. BACKGROUND

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in *Suo Moto Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025* titled "In Re: City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price", vide order dated 7th November, 2025, expressed grave concern over the alarming rise in dog-bite incidents within institutional areas across India, particularly in public areas including educational institutions, hospitals, parks, sports complexes, railway stations, tourist sites, religious places and bus stands/depots including Inter-State Bus Terminals [hereinafter referred to as the "Institutional Premises"], where the safety of children, patients, commuters, and other members of the public are reportedly compromised.

Pursuant to Direction 25(J) contained in Part III of the said order, the Hon'ble Court directed the Animal Welfare Board of India to formulate and issue detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the prevention of dog-bite incidents and the management of free roaming dogs in institutional premises, to be uniformly adopted across all States and Union Territories within four weeks.

This Standard Operating Procedure is therefore formulated by the Animal Welfare Board of India in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 7 November 2025.

2. URGENT STEPS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN BY THE JURUSDICTIONAL MUNICIPAL BODIES/ AUTHORITIES

i. Shelter Management for the stray dogs

- a. The Jurisdictional municipal authorities or District Authority, as a first step, should identify the existing shelters and areas where new shelters could be established within their jurisdiction.



- b. The shelters established by the Municipal Authorities should be in compliance with the rules, advisories and modules issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India time to time.
- c. Once, the shelters for stray dogs have been identified and established, the Municipal Authorities, shall maintain the shelters in the following manner to regulate the population.

- (i). **Proposed Area for the shelter:** A shelter must comply with the permissible number of dogs as per the area of the shelter, which shall be as below:

Area of Shelter	Number of Dogs to be maintained
70 ft x 40 ft including Kennel and Small facilities.	100 Dogs
157 ft x 90 ft including Kennel, kitchen and Staff Room.	500 Dogs
221 ft x 127 ft including Kennel and Small facilities.	1000 Dogs

*A schematic diagram for a 100dogs,500dogs and 1000dogs shelter is attached at Annexure I,II,III.

- (ii). **Feeding of Dogs within the shelter:** That the dogs must be responsibly fed within the shelter, depending on their weight, size and other attributes. The same is stipulated later in this SOP for reference.
- (iii). **Waste Management:** The number of caretakers to be assigned to each shelter as per the requirement for management of waste. The shelter must be cleaned twice every day to avoid spread of infection and better management of waste.

ii. **Removal of dogs from Public Institutions**

- a. In view of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 07.11.2025, all the State Governments and Union Territories shall through their



respective local / municipal authorities / District authority, identify all government and private educational institutions, hospitals (including district hospitals, primary health centres, and medical colleges), public sports complexes or stadia, bus stand/ depos and railway stations situated within their territorial limits. It is also advised to identify other public places such as religious places, children's parks, airports, helipads, seaports, tourist sites and recreational spots.

- b. Once the areas are identified by the respective municipal authorities, the concerned management shall ensure that the stray dogs do not ingress in that area. The concerned management is also responsible to secure the institution by adequate fencing, boundary wall, gates or any other infrastructure to avoid entry of the stray dogs within the area.
- c. In cases of educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, tourist sites, religious places, airports, helipads, seaports and recreational spots, the concerned management shall identify a Nodal Officer, who's responsibility will be to ensure that no stray dog enter or inhabit within the premises of the area and proper waste management should be done in and around the area. In order to effectively implement the aforesaid direction, it must be ensured that the perimeter of the area is bounded by fence of not less than 6 ft. height. Along with securing the perimeter of that area, the concerned management must also make sure that the entry and exit points as well as the main gate of that area is also properly secured to avoid ingress of the stray dogs.
- d. While exercising the aforesaid direction, concerned management with the assistance of local/municipal authorities shall remove all the stray dogs found within the premises of any such area and shift them to designated animal shelters. All the dogs must be taken out from the areas to be sterilized, vaccinated and then kept in a shelter either maintained by the Municipal Corporations or in coordination with the local animal welfare organizations, gaushalas, pinjrapoles or any person organizations volunteering for keeping those dogs.



- e. The animal welfare organizations and NGOs may volunteer for technical support, capacity building and other resources towards the construction, and maintenance of animal shelters and community kennels, in partnership with local bodies and institutions.
- f. The local/ municipal bodies shall facilitate the establishment of community kennels for which financial contribution can be jointly mobilised from interested Institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders willing to support the creation and development of community kennels and shelters.

iii. Sterilization and Vaccination:

- a. The Jurisdictional Municipal Corporation or Local Bodies as the case may be, after removing dogs, shall ensure all the dogs have been sterilized before putting them in the shelter. In this regard, if the sterilization center is not available, they may take the help of the local veterinary hospitals under the administrative control of the Animal Husbandry Department or take any help of civil societies or organizations or trust volunteering for the sterilization programme. Sterilization and capture methods must comply with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 and Revised Animal Birth Control Module, 2025.
- b. The concerned authorities should also focus on the pack of dogs surrounding the areas. In order to restrict the entry of dogs into the areas and control their population, the pack of dogs, more particularly male dogs to be sterilized on priority along with puppies after the age of 6 months.
- c. The Sterilized dogs, after their recovery, shall be vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccination shall continue in every year at least for five years or till protective titre is achieved.
- d. Once, the dogs have been sterilized and vaccinated, the dogs shall be sent to shelters either established by the Municipality or private trust, societies, organizations, gaushalas, pinjrapole those have facility to keep dogs for remaining period of their life. The institutions



may volunteer for establishing a shelter within its premises on its own expenditure, which are having more than two acre of land and having a free space of at least 6000 sq ft. The area and number of dogs within the shelter shall be within the permissible limit as mentioned above.

- e. The Local/ Municipal Authorities shall ensure that the dogs removed from the areas to be sent to only the designated shelters.

iv. Infrastructure for Shelter and their management:

For sheltering of stray dogs, the Shelters shall be constructed keeping in mind of the following minimal infrastructure:

- a. Fencing of at least six feet height.
- b. Veterinary care (may be built in consultation with the Animal Husbandry Department, if no veterinary hospital is available nearby). For treatment of sheltered dog, the shelter management may also call mobile veterinary services through toll free number 1962.
- c. The routine handling and management of Dogs in the shelter should strictly follow humane practices as described in the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 and Revised Animal Birth Control Module, 2025.
- d. Open area for dogs with demarcation so that entire family or pack of dog to be kept at one place. A night shelter in each dog shelter may be established.
- e. Watering and feeding arrangement
- f. Each shelter house should be manned with the following category of personal:
 - (i). Watchman for 24 hours
 - (ii). Cleaner as per need.
 - (iii). Caretaker for feed and other management activities round the clock depending on the number of dogs in the shelters.



(iv). Record keeper for feeding, medicine, inventory etc.

- g. Feeding of dog in the shelter:** The shelter management shall follow the following feeding schedule for dogs sheltered:

Category	Age	Intervals of feeding
Puppies	Newborn to 2 months	4-6 small meals/day
	2-6 months	3 meals/day
	6-12 months	2-3 meals/day
Adult Dogs (1 year and above)	Medium & large breeds	2 meals/day
	Small breeds	2-3 meals/day (small dogs use energy faster)
	Senior Dogs	2 meals/day (provide Softer or easily digestible food if needed)

- h. General Rule for feeding:** Dogs eat around 2-3% of their body weight per day (including all food—dry, wet, or homemade). Approximately, the daily feeding chart based on the body weight should be as under:

Dog Weight	Food Quantity/Day
5 kg	100-150 grams
10 kg	200-300 grams
20 kg	400-600 grams
30 kg	600-900 grams
40 kg	800-1200 grams

- i.** The following practice should be adopted for maintaining the shelter hygiene in order to prevent spread of any diseases. —
- Choose a consistent feeding place: Feed your dog in the same quiet place every day and use clean bowls for food and water.
 - Wash food bowls daily and Keep water available at all times (24×7).
 - Measure the food based on the dog's weight and diet. Avoid free feeding (leaving food out all day), especially for adult dogs.
 - Give food at fixed times; dogs respond well to routine. Remove leftover food after 20-25 minutes.
 - Transition new foods slowly: When changing diet, mix new food gradually over 5-7 days.



(vi). Separate kennels for diseased animals to be maintained.

v. Feeding of stray dogs and Waste Management:

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has noted that the one of the underlying causes of the problem of stray dog is "*improper disposal of food waste in an around of the public institutions*". Since the dog is a scavenging animal, any food item which is disposed in open areas shall attract the neighbouring dogs, even if the dogs are removed from such areas. These dogs will then find entry in the areas.

Therefore, the concerned management and its Nodal Officer in coordination with the jurisdictional local/ municipal authority, shall ensure that:

- a. Food operators/ vendors selling food in and around 100 meters of the areas shall establish closed waste disposal pits/ bins to dispose of waste. The Food vendors must also ensure that no dogs are fed near or around their food stall.
- b. The Local/ Municipal authorities shall ensure daily cleaning of waste materials from all the vending regions around the areas. A helpline for waste disposal also to be established by the Municipal bodies.
- c. The citizens should be made aware of waste management in and around such areas in order to avoid the return of dogs to such areas. Massive campaign should be carried out for responsible waste disposal within the public, children, shopkeepers, customers and other citizens. The citizens should also be made aware that feeding of dogs must only take place at the designated feedings spots.
- d. **Permission to feed in the shelter by compassionate persons:** Keeping large number of dogs in the shelter shall require large quantum of fund. The Municipal Corporations, State Governments and Union Territories shall have to arrange resources for daily feeding of stray dog. The expenditure for each dog towards cost of feed and other ancillary charges cannot be calculated as it varies depending on the many things. Therefore, the State Animal Welfare Board may volunteer to determine the feeding cost. In this regard, the cost prescribed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case



Property Animals) Rules, 2017 may be consulted to fix the cost of feeding. The source of funding and cost towards running of shelter may also be decided by the Concerned Government.

vi. Awareness about waste management, responsible feeding and adoption of stray dogs:

- a. The Local/ municipal authorities shall make the citizens aware of the importance of waste management and responsible feeding to control population of dogs in the area.
- b. There must be video clips to be displayed at all prominent places such as multiplexes, shopping complexes and other recreational areas to make citizens aware about proper waste disposal and also responsible feeding of the stray dogs.
- c. The citizens must also be guided towards adoption of stray dogs which helps in controlling and managing the population of stray dogs in and around the areas.
- d. **Awareness creation to prevent dog bites:** The Nodal officer in each of the institution shall create awareness amongst the children, students and personal working in the institution. The Institutions may develop a poster or standee depicting the following information about the behaviour of a dog:
 - (i). **Read the Dog's Body Language:** Learn to recognize signs that a dog is uncomfortable, scared, or ready to bite. If dog is growling or showing teeth, ears pinned back, Tail tucked between legs, Stiff body, avoiding eye contact, Lip licking or yawning (stress signals)- give the dog space immediately.
 - (ii). **Do Not Approach Unfamiliar Dogs:** Never rush toward a strange dog, always let the dog come to you, ask the owner before touching or petting.
 - (iii). **Avoid Disturbing a Dog:** Do **not** wake a sleeping dog suddenly, touch a dog while it is eating, Interrupt while chewing a bone or playing with a toy, compete for food or toys.
 - (iv). **Teach Children Safe Behavior:** Children should pet dogs gently, **never** pull ears, tail, or fur, not hug or ride the dog, avoid face-to-face contact, stay calm around dogs

- (v). **Stay Calm and Move Slowly:** Dogs react to fast or threatening movements. If a dog approach stand still, avoid direct eye contact, do not scream or run, let the dog sniff and lose interest.
- (vi). **If a Dog Attacks:** Put a bag, stick, or jacket between you and the dog, protect your face, chest, and neck. If knocked down, **curl into a ball** and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- (vii). **Leash and Training for Pet Dogs:** The dog owner should keep dogs leashed in public, train basic commands: *sit, stay, leave, come*, socialize dogs with people and other animals, spaying/neutering may reduce aggression, address anxiety or fear behavior early with a veterinarian or trainer.
- (viii). **Responsible Environment:** Keep stray dogs away from children, secure garbage and food waste to avoid attracting strays, Report aggressive stray dogs to local authorities.
- (ix). **Vaccination:** Ensure dogs receive regular rabies vaccination, helping protect both the dog and public health.

e. **Measures to be taken in case dog bite happen:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued detailed guidelines for management of various degree of dog bite. The information is available at [www. rabiesfreeindia.mohfw.gov.in](http://www.rabiesfreeindia.mohfw.gov.in). They have also established Helpline No. 15400 for information.

vii. Monitoring and evaluation:

The entire SOP should be implemented by the concerned authorities which will be monitored by the District Magistrate.

viii. Reporting:

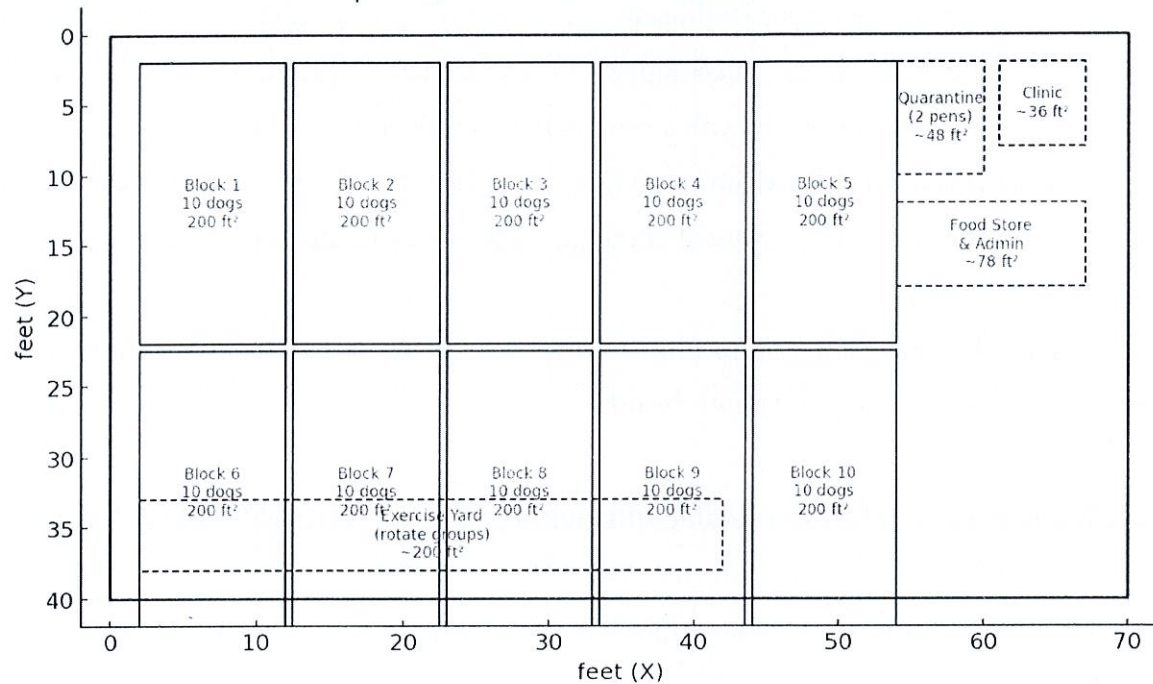
The status of the implementation of SOP shall be reported to the Animal Welfare Board of India through respective State Government Departments.



Annexure I

Schematic Layout of a dog shelter (100dogs capacity)

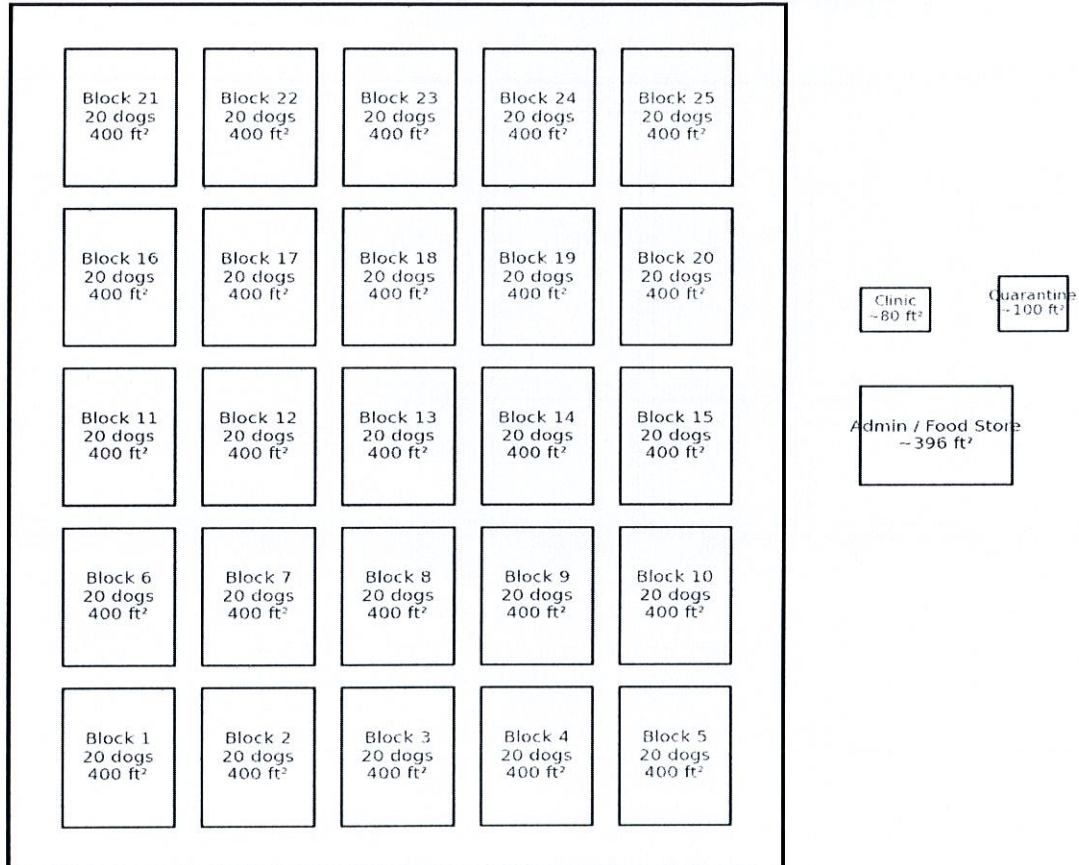
Recommended full-site plan (70 ft × 40 ft = 2,800 ft²) — kennels + small facilities



Annexure II

Schematic Layout of a dog shelter (500dogs capacity)

Recommended full site plan 500 dogs - Kennels + Small Facilities

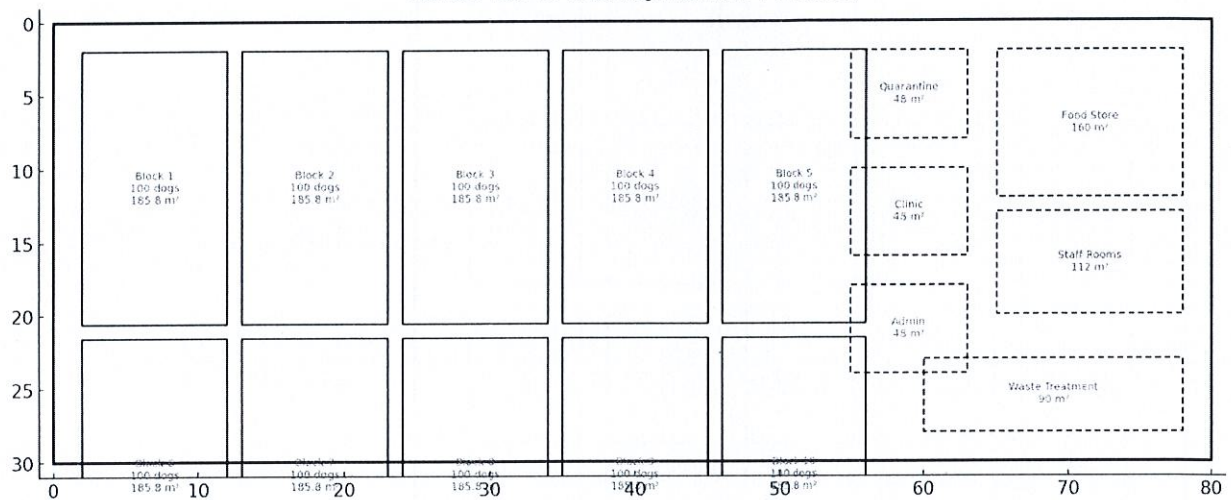


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Annexure III

Schematic Layout of a dog shelter (1000dogs capacity)

Full-Site Plan for 1000 Dogs (Kennels + Facilities)



Exercise Yard
200 m²

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