

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
Sikri, Ballabhgarh, Haryana

Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 19.12.2025 at Chanderlok Building, New Delhi

The following members attended the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 19.12.2025 at Chanderlok Building, New Delhi physically and virtually: -

1. Dr. Muthukumarasamy B., IAS - Chairman
2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) - Member
3. Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) - Member
4. Dr. Sunil Sharma, Director (WL)
Representative of IGF(WL), MoEF&CC- Member
5. Shri Girish J. Shah - Member
6. Shri Sunil Mansinghka - Member
7. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi - Member
8. Ms. Anjali Gopalan - Member
9. Prof. R.S. Chauhan - Member
10. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar - Member
11. Shri Dhan Pal Singh - Member
12. Dr. Manilal Valliyate - Member
13. Shri R. Raghu Ram Sharma - Member
14. Dr. Mukesh Kr.Gupta Rep. ICMR - Member – Attended virtually
15. Dr. Hitesh Jani - Member – Attended virtually
16. Dr. S. K. Dutta - Secretary In-charge, AWBI
17. Smt. Prachi Jain - Assistant Secretary, AWBI

The Chairman welcomed all the Members present in the meeting and requested all the Members of the Board for their self-introduction being the first full Board meeting of his tenure and nomination of Shri R. Raghu Ram Sharma as new Member of the Board. The Board Members present in the meeting introduced themselves.

The Chairman then requested the Secretary to present the agenda items

Item No.1: Ratifications of the minutes of the Board Meetings and Committee meetings of the Board held from 09.11.2024 to 30.11.2025 except the meetings minutes already ratified in the General Meetings of the Board held during this period

i. Ratification of the Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 26.11.2024.

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 26.11.2024.

ii. Ratification of the Minutes of the 54th General Meeting of the Board held on 13.08.2025.

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the 54th General Meeting of the Board held on 13.08.2025.

iii. Ratification of the Minutes of the 130th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 25.11.2025.

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the 130th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 25.11.2025.

iv. Ratification of the Minutes of the Recognition Committee Meetings of the Board held on 03.09.2025

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the Recognition Committee Meeting of the Board held on 03.09.2025.

Chairman after due deliberation has decided to call a meeting with all the Animal Welfare Organizations, Gaushalas recognised with the AWBI alongwith the officials of the State Animal Husbandry Department / State Animal Welfare Board / Gau-Seva Aayog, to sensitize the AWOs for obtaining renewal of recognition from the Board through its online portal.

v. Ratification of the Minutes of the ABC Project Recognition Committee Meetings of the Board held on 20.08.2025 and 15.10.2025

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the 02 ABC Committee Meetings of the Board held on 20.08.2025 and 15.10.2025 respectively.

iv. Ratification of the Minutes of meeting of Honorary Animal Welfare

Representative Committee Meetings of the Board held on 03.09.2025

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the meeting of Honorary Animal Welfare Representative (HAWR) Committee of the Board held on 03.09.2025.

v. Ratification of the Minutes of the Performing Animals Committee held from 07.08.2025 to till 28.11.2025

The Board noted the details of 17 Performing Animals Committee (PAC) meetings held from 07.08.2025 to till 28.11.2025 wherein 193 Pre-shoot permissions and 346 No Objection Certificates were issued by the Board after approval of the Chairman, AWBI based on the recommendations of the Performing Animals Committee.

vi. Ratification of the Minutes of the Award and Event Committee Meeting of the Board held on 03.09.2025

The Board ratified and confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the Award and Event Committee held on 03.09.2025.

The Chairman decided that the Minutes of the meeting(s) of the Board and its various Committees to be circulated among the concerned members for 7 days, for their comments, if any, before approval of the Chairman.

Item No.2: Consideration of the matter pertaining to Allocation of the Budget for the financial year 2025-26

The allocated BE of Rs.1030.00 lakhs for the financial year 2025-26 and RE for the financial year 2025-26 and proposed internal allotment for schemes etc. As tabulated was placed before the Board for perusal and final reallocation of the budget by the Board:

(Rupees in Lakhs)

S.No.	Schemes	Budget Received by the Ministry in 2024-25	BE Allocation by Ministry for 202526-	Fund Revalidated for 2025-26	BE Allocation by AWBI for 202526- in its 54 th GM	Expenditure as on date	Proposed Allocation for 2025-26
1	Grant in Aid Salary	300.00	33000.	22.11	33000.	191.74	330.00
2	Grant in Aid General (Admin & Office Expenses)	93.25	50000.	3978.	21000.	45.06	100.00
3	Grant in Aid General (Creation of Capital Assets)	17.11	20000.	17.11	10000.	17.11	135.45

4	Regular Grant and Rescue Cattle Grant	61.02	-	62.83	15000.	-	-
5	Provision of Shelter House	84.01	-	84.79	5000.	-	216.55
6	Provision of Ambulance Services	36.00	-	36.00	-	-	-
7	Animal Birth Control (ABC) Scheme	-	-	-	5000.	-	-
8	Natural Calamity Relief to Animals	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Humane Education and Awareness	-	-	-	14000.	-	-
	Total	591.39	1030.00	262.62	1030.00	253.91	782.00

Note: In respect of certain Shelter House cases, second instalments amounting to ₹3,23,90,195 are due, out of this, ₹72.75 lakh has been provisioned in the current financial year as per budget availability in the RE. The remaining amount will be proposed in the next financial year.

Proposed Demand for New Schemes							
(Rs. 100.00 Crores will be required for New Schemes for 5 years)							
10	Animal Shelters seeking Grants-in-Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Providing financial assistance for veterinary care and rescued animals	-	-	-	-	-	-

The budget earmarked for the financial year 2025-26 was perused by the Board and agreed.

The Board after due deliberation has decided that a communication may be sent to the administrative Ministry seeking clarification with reference to the the applications received under the scheme of Regular and Rescue Cattle Grant from the AWOs/ Gaushalas between 01.04.2025 to 13.08.2025, as the Board has decided to discontinue the said schemes during its 54th General Meeting held on 13.08.2025 in lieu of the receipt of the new Schemes from the Ministry for implementation of the same during the financial year 2025-26. If the Ministry conveys its decision for non-consideration of these applications, then the applications fees of Rs. 500/- received against each application shall be returned.

After due deliberation on the budget, the Board also decided that the committed liabilities under the Regular & Rescued Cattle Grant, Shelter House Scheme and Ambulance Scheme shall be taken up with the Grant Committee. It was also decided that no proposals could be considered under the schemes which are closed.

Item No.3: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2024-25.

The draft Annual Report of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the Year 2024-25 containing the Audited Annual Accounts of the Board was placed before the Board for perusal of the Hon'ble Members of the Board seeking their approval and adoption of the final accounts of the Board and for approval of the draft of the Annual Report 2024-25.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter and going through the draft Annual Report for the year 2024-25 adopted the Audited Accounts of the Board and approved the draft Annual Report of the Board for the year 2024-25 in-principle and decided to get the draft Annual Report 2024-25 translated in Hindi.

The Board was also apprised about the status of the Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2024-25 which are yet to be received. The Board decided that the Separate Audit Report of the Board on receipt of the same from Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2024-25 shall be incorporated in the final Annual Report 2024-25 after getting approval of the same from the Board through circulation before finalizing the draft for printing and laying before the Parliament.

Item No.4: Consideration of matter regarding Review and re-constitution of various committees of the Board

The matter pertaining to review of the existing Committees of the Board was placed before the Board post nomination of Dr. Muthukumarasamy B., IAS, Joint Secretary, DAHD as Chairman of Animal Welfare Board of India and addition of Shri R. Raghu Ram Sharma as Member of the Board.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter and going through the list of all Existing Committees of the Board, decided following changes in the Committees of the Board.

The list of the revised Committees of the Board is as below

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1. Chairman AWBI 2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, Member, AWBI 3. Shri Girish J. Shah, Member, AWBI 4. Shri Sunil Mansinghka, Member, AWBI 5. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member, AWBI

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Shri S. P. Gupta, Member, AWBI 7. Dr. Hitesh Jani, Member, AWBI 8. Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI 9. Representative from the Ministry of Finance 10. Secretary, AWBI

ABC PROJECT RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. R. S. Chauhan, Member, AWBI 2. Sh. Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member AWBI 3. Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member, AWBI 4. Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI 5. Dr. Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Member, AWBI 6. Dr. H. R. Khanna, Joint Commissioner, DAHD 7. Dr. Abdul Vakil, Chief Veterinary Officer, GHMC 8. Dr. Sreenivasan, Director, AHD, Karnataka 9. Dr. Aslam Ansari, Additional Director, ULB, Govt of Uttar Pradesh 10. Secretary, AWBI/ Asst. Secy., AWBI
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The Committee may co-opt one or more members as and when required

ANIMAL ACT & RULES REVIEWING & LEGAL COMMITTEE

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI 2. Prof. R.S. Chauhan, Member AWBI 3. Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member AWBI 4. Shri S.P. Gupta, Member AWBI 5. Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI 6. Dr. Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Member AWBI 7. Shri R. Raghu Ram Sharma, Member AWBI 8. Smt. Manisha T. Karia, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court 9. Dr. Harsh Surana, AoR, Supreme Court 10. Adv. Rajesh K. Gogna, CGSC, Delhi High Court 11. Shri Kamlesh Shah, Mumbai. 12. Shri Abhay S. Shah, Advocate Gujarat High Court, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 13. Secretary, AWBI/ Asst. Secy., AWBI

The Board may co-opt more members as and when required

COMMITTEE FOR HONORARY ANIMAL WELFARE REPRESENTATIVE

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member, AWBI 2. Prof. R.S. Chauhan, Member, AWBI 3. Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member, AWBI 4. Shri Girish J Shah, Member AWBI 5. Secretary, AWBI/ Asst. Secy., AWBI

GRANT COMMITTEE

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Vaidya Hitesh Jani, Member, AWBI 2. Shri Girish J. Shah, Member, AWBI 3. Shri Sunil Mansinghka, Member, AWBI 4. Shri S.P. Gupta, Member AWBI 5. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member, AWBI 6. Smt. Anamika Nigam, Under Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, New Delhi

7. Secretary, AWBI/ Asst. Secy., AWBI

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

1. Shri Rajeev Gupta, Member AWBI
2. Shri Girish J. Shah, Member, AWBI
3. Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member AWBI
4. Prof. R. S. Chauhan, Member, AWBI
5. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member, AWBI
6. Shri R. Raghu Ram Sharma, Member AWBI
7. Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS, Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC)
8. Representative State Animal Welfare Board / Gau Seva Aayog of concerned State / UT.
9. Representative of Animal Husbandry Department of the concerned State/ UT not below the rank of Joint Director.
10. Dr. S. K. Dutta, Secretary, AWBI – Convener of the meeting

PERFORMING ANIMALS COMMITTEE

1. Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member, AWBI
2. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member, AWBI
3. Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI
4. Shri Mahesh Kumar, Regional Officer, CBFC, New Delhi (**Tenure with CBFC ended**)
5. Sh. Sanjay Shukla, IFS, Former Member Secretary, CZA
6. Dr. R. Gopinath, IFS, Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC)
7. Sh. Jerome Minz, Former Secretary, AWBI
8. Representative from Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC
9. Representative from DAHD, MoFAH&D (preferably from the LH Division needs to be nominated)
10. Secretary / Asst. Secretary, AWBI

COMMITTEE FOR INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES

1. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member AWBI - Chairman
2. Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI
3. Dr. Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Member AWBI
4. Shri Sudhir Kumar Srivastava, IG (Retd.), BSF, New Delhi
5. Dr. Sandeep Jain, Ludhiana, Punjab.
6. Shri Kamlesh Shah, Mumbai, Maharashtra
7. Shri J.P. Saxena, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh
8. Representative from the State Animal Husbandry Department of the concerned State
9. Representative of the local bodies
10. Representative from FSSAI dealing with the subject
11. Representative from APEDA in respect of inspection of APEDA registered slaughter houses

AWARD AND EVENT COMMITTEE

- i. Shri Rajeev Gupta, Member, AWBI
- ii. Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member AWBI
- iii. Shri Girish J. Shah, Member, AWBI

- iv. Dr. R. S. Chauhan, Member AWBI
- v. Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member, AWBI
- vi. Shri S.P. Gupta, Member AWBI
- vii. Shri Dhan Pal Singh, Member AWBI
- viii. Shri Mital Khetani
- ix. Smt. Monica Arora
- x. Secretary, AWBI/ Asst. Secy., AWBI

The Board after due deliberation decided that all Committees shall meet at least once on a quarterly basis. The Chairman clarified that the Chairman, AWBI shall not act as the Chairperson of all Committees, except the Executive Committee. All other Committees shall comprise only Members of the Board, and the Chairperson of each such Committee shall be decided from among the Board Members on the basis of alphabetical order. No co-opted member shall be nominated as Chairperson of any Committee. The recommendations of all Committees shall be placed before the Chairman, AWBI for approval.

He further emphasised that the Grants Committee shall meet during the first week (Wednesday) of every month either physically or virtually so that the financial proposals could be considered on time and the funds could be utilized within the stipulated time limits during the financial year. Chairman further directed that only on receipt of the inspection report either from Members of the Board or employees of the Board, the Grant Committee will consider the application for sanction of financial assistance. 360° video of the AWO or Gaushala may also be obtained before consideration of the financial assistance.

Item No.5: Consideration of matter pertaining to writing off various amounts from the Balance sheet of the Board which could not be reconciled before the Audit since long

The matter related to schedules of Balance Sheet of AWBI under the various heading as given in the table shows some entries which are to be reconciled but the same could not be done due to non-availability of required information / details since long and the C&AG during the audit of the Board has also observed the same and recommended to make necessary provisions for such amounts was placed before the Board

The Board after due deliberation on the matter and going through the details of the amounts shown in the various schedules of the Balance Sheet, decided that the proposal for writing off the various amounts need to be approved by the IFD of the Ministry as per the rule position, then only the same could be written off by the Board.

Item No.6: Consideration of matter pertaining to Delegation of Financial Powers to Chairman and Secretary of the Board

The matter pertaining to the Financial Powers which are presently vested to the Chairman and Secretary under the Animal Welfare Board

(Administration) Rules, 1962 are based on monetary limits fixed in 1962, was placed before the Board with the revised draft DFPR as the limits have become outdated and insufficient in the present context. The C&AG audit has also observed that the financial sanctions and day-to-day expenditures of the Board such as grant-in-aid, administrative expenses, salaries, and contingencies often exceed the ceilings prescribed under the existing Rules. With the substantial increase in costs over time, the current delegation of financial powers is inadequate for efficient functioning of the Board.

Keeping in view the requirement of the Board for the purpose of carrying out the day to day business of the Board through its Chairman and Secretary to approve key financial matters, including release of financial assistance under various schemes, salary payments, travel and meeting expenses, and essential office contingencies, an enhanced delegation of financial powers is necessary to meet operational needs and fulfil the objectives mandated under the PCA Act, 1960, the Board after due deliberation on the draft DFPRs decided to forward the approved DFPRs to the Ministry for concurrence.

The revised and approved Delegation of Financial Powers for the Chairman and Secretary are placed at **Annexure- I.**

Item No.7: Consideration of the matter pertaining to issuing Colony Animal Caretaker (CACT) authorization

The matter pertaining to nomination of Colony Animal Care Takers (CACTs) who voluntarily undertake the feeding, basic medical care and general oversight of street animals in their respective localities with the recommendations of the recommending authorities as prescribed by the Board was placed before the Board for consideration.

The Board after due deliberation on the matter agreed to the decision taken by the Executive Committee of the Board for delegating the powers of nomination of the CACT through the Chief Veterinary Officer or Deputy Director or District Animal Husbandry Officer of the District. The CVO or DD or DAHO, based on the requirement, will issue the letter of authorisation as CACT. If there is no requirement, the CVO or DD or DAHO, shall have the right to reject the applications as the Hon'ble Supreme Court has restricted feeding in public places. On receipt of the application, the CVO or DD or DAHO will take the decision within one month of the submission of application.

If the applicant is not satisfied with the decision or the CVO or DD or DAHO has not made any decision, shall appeal to Member Secretary, State Animal Welfare Board or Director / Commissioner Animal Husbandry Department of the respective States / UTs. They shall dispose the appeal preferably within a month after making a summary enquiry. The decision of the Member Secretary shall be final.

Further, it was decided that the Board will dispose of all the pending cases received through the online portal of the Board seeking authorisation as CACT and accepting new applications through this portal shall be

stopped immediately.

The matter was considered and agreed upon by the Board

General Discussion:

1. The Board shall fill all vacant posts in the AWBI within 15 days, and the status of recruitment shall be reported in every forthcoming Board Meeting.
2. The Chairman directed that the Ministry be requested to conduct a Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) study for enhancement of the Board's manpower strength.
3. After due deliberation, it was decided to frame minimum standards for Animal Shelters, including the mandatory veterinary infrastructure requirements.
4. The Board shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a travel agency for hiring vehicles/taxis for official travel of Board Members and employees for journeys up to 500 km (one side) across the country.
5. The Board shall convene meetings with the authorities of State/UT Governments to strengthen the functioning of State Animal Welfare Boards and SPCAs in their respective States/Districts.

Additional Agenda Points raised by the Members of the Board

The following agenda items have been received from the Members of the Board and the same were placed before the Board for consideration: -

Additional Item No.1: Point raised by Shri Rajeev Gupta, Member AWBI.

Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Member AWBI raised the concern about the objections raised on the SOP issued by the Board. Chairman, AWBI informed that the Board had issued the SOP on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a time bound manner after the approval of the Executive Committee of the Board. The SOP was also submitted to the Hon'ble Court. He further informed the Members that the legitimate suggestions after the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, will be incorporated in the SOP.

Additional Item No.2: Point raised by Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member AWBI

Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Member, AWBI raised concerns regarding the non-compliance by slaughterhouses with the provisions of the Slaughter House Rules, particularly with respect to humane practices such as stunning. It was noted that the Board has adequate provisions under the law to address such issues and to curb inhumane practices inflicted on animals. The Chairman, AWBI suggested that the Board should initiate capacity-building and training programmes for slaughterhouse personnel as well as inspection authorities, with a view to sensitising them to the provisions of the Slaughter House Rules and ensuring the humane slaughter of animals.

Additional Item No.3: Point raised by Shri Sunil Mansinghkhwa, Member AWBI.

Shri Sunil Mansinghka, Member, AWBI raised the issue relating to incidents of wild animal attacks in civil/human habitation areas. After due deliberation, it was decided that the Board shall write to the concerned authorities of the Wildlife Department, Government of Maharashtra, to examine the matter. It was further decided that a meeting may be convened with the concerned authorities to discuss and address the issue appropriately.

Additional Item No.4: Point raised by Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member AWBI.

Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi, Member, AWBI raised the issue regarding the inspection of slaughterhouses in accordance with the provisions of the Slaughter House Rules. The Board deliberated on the matter and agreed to undertake inspections as per the prescribed rules.

Additional Item No.5: Point raised by Shri R. Raghu Ram Sharma, Member AWBI.

Shri R. Raghu Ram Sharma, Member, AWBI raised the issue concerning the conduct of Jallikattu events in Tamil Nadu and Kambala races in Karnataka. After deliberation, the Chairman, AWBI decided that advisories shall be issued to the concerned authorities in this regard.

Additional Item No.6: Suggestion made by Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member AWBI.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Member, AWBI suggested that the Board should invite the Hon'ble Minister of State, Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, to an upcoming meeting of the Board for guidance. She further suggested that Board Members may undertake a visit to the Wildlife SOS organisation, which is engaged in the rehabilitation of elephants near Agra. Additionally, she proposed that the Board may organise a virtual sensitisation session for Members on issues relating to elephants, in view of the frequent instances of cruelty to elephants.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.
