



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India

October 16, 2018

1. The Chief Secretaries,
of the State Governments / UTs
2. Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries
Urban Development and Municipal Administration
of the State Governments / UTs
3. Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries
Development and Panchayat Raj of the State Governments / UTs
4. Additional Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries
Animal Husbandry of the State Governments / UTs

Subject : Advisory to sterilize and immunize stray cats

Sir / Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory body established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The functions of the Board include the promotion of animal welfare generally for the purpose of prevention of cruelty and for protecting animals from being subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering, in particular.

It is one of the responsibilities of local bodies to protect stray animal i.e. dogs, cats, cattle etc. from cruelty and sufferings. Animal Birth Control (ABC) schemes and sterilization of animals should be properly implemented so that there is no case of dog bites etc. causing fear and harm to the public at large. Implementation of ABC schemes and sterilization of animals will resolve the persistent problem and Urban Local bodies are advised to take immediate steps in this regard.

It has been reported that there is an over-population of cats in various parts of the country resulting in perpetration of cruelty on stray cats. Unwanted stray cats end up on the streets each year except few which are adopted; the rest are either euthanized or die from trauma, exposure, accident, starvation or disease. Generally, a cat gives birth to four to five kittens every three months, thereby increasing their population immensely and little kittens dying miserably on roads, under bikes, cars, gutters, drainage pipes, etc. It is imperative that sterilization of stray cats is required to curb their population on the lines of stray dogs and in turn stopping cruelty to cats.

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
Stray cats are mostly found in huge numbers in-chawls, fish-meat markets, slums, building compounds, even in the Hospitals causing problems to residents and health risk to people, accidents, making persistent & excessive noises while fighting, mating; cats during breeding season interfere with the peace, upturn of dustbins near residents' doors which is absolutely unhealthy, danger due to their scratch, poops / litters inside the premises etc. causing discomfort or inconvenience to persons or premises; repeatedly damages anything outside the property on which they ordinarily sit (e. g. tearing and scratching bike and car seats) etc. When nature's cycle gets disrupted there are always horrible repercussions – as the Birth control of dogs is been taken care of by the Rules, on the other hand their feline counterparts are increasing manifold. Being pregnant and reproducing on roads, thereby leaving the vulnerable kittens dying due to accidents and other causes is itself cruelty under section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. Due to the overpopulation people kicking, hitting and shooing them off is also not uncommon which contributes to cruelty.

The cat population is increasing rapidly, thereby leading to unnecessary pain and suffering to these animals. They are neither administered rabies, de-worming and other medications by the Municipal civic bodies nor are they sterilized / castrated as practiced for dogs thereby increasing the unhygienic conditions in fragile environment.

Keeping in view of the above, there is an urgent need of spaying / neutering of stray cats failing which the plight of the stray cats will aggravate in times to come.

Hence, it is advised to take urgent steps to identify the population of cats region-wise both male and female with breed details and make appropriate provision for the sterilization and immunization of stray cats mutatis mutandis on the lines of Animal Birth Control of stray dogs and send the action taken report within one month from the date of this advisory for records and necessary action.

Yours Sincerely,


16/10/18
(Dr. Neelam Bala)
Secretary