



## ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India  
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

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No.3-3/2021-2022/PCA

Date. 03.06.2021

### CIRCULAR

To,

The Chief Secretary of all State / UTs

**Subject: Request to implement the Guidelines for Birth Control and Immunization of stray cats**

Sir/Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India has been receiving representations in the recent time requesting to control the population of stray cats in the urban area.

2. In this regard, it is stated that India is a country with more than 35 million stray animals, a large majority of which consist of dogs and cats. Both Dog and cat population is at all-time high and they tend to create menace in urban and metro regions, where population density is very high. These cats can be found in every district in large numbers especially in chawls, fish, meat markets, slums, building compounds, even in the Hospitals. The civic body does not have any control over their population which further causes a nuisance to residents and health risk to people, causing accidents, making persistent & excessive noises while fighting, mating even responsible for spreading zoonotic diseases like toxocariasis, rabies etc.

3. Further, every cat gives birth to four to five kittens in every three months, thereby increasing their population immensely and little kittens dying miserably on roads, under bikes, cars, gutters, drainage pipes, etc. These cats have non-administered rabies, de-worming, and other medications by the Municipal civic

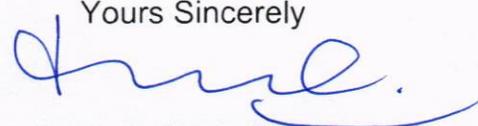
bodies nor they are sterilized/castrated as done for the dogs, this led to them living in the unhygienic and ailing environment. Thus, these stray cats shall be protected from unnecessary pain or suffering as per the mandate of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and its Rules.

4. It is pertinent to mention that it is the responsibility of the local bodies to take care of stray animals including cats and the Board has issued several advisories to the State Governments/UTs for taking appropriate action in the matter. The method adopted for the sterilization, which is being carried out by the local bodies for the stray dogs needs to be expanded to stray cats to save them from unnecessary pain or suffering.

5. Therefore, in view of the above, the Board has decided to widen the scope of the current ABC/AR programme and prepare these "**Guidelines for Birth Control and Immunization of stray cats**" to control the population, to eradicate rabies and safeguard the cats from other fatal diseases. This will help to remove the fear of rabies and getting infectious diseases from the cats as well as lower down the population which results in man-animal conflict mostly in urban areas and peri-urban forest areas.

With Regards,

Yours Sincerely



Dr. O. P Chaudhary  
(Chairman)

**Copy for information and necessary action:**

1. The District Collector(s) of all Districts in the respective State Governments/UTs
2. Municipal Corporations of all States/ UTs

## **PREFACE**

The Animal Welfare Board of India with the objective to Control the population of stray cats in urban areas has prepared these guidelines to conduct ABC/ AR program for sterilization and immunization of stray cats implemented through local bodies and AWO's. The Board Guidelines for Birth Control and Immunization of stray cats will be run on the similar lines to the existing ABC Module for sterilization of stray dogs and Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001. These guidelines should be read in harmonious construction with Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001.