

Roc.No.35409 /TNAWB /2020

Office of the Director of Animal
Husbandry
&Veterinary Services,
Veterinary Polyclinic Campus,
571,Nandhanam,Anna salai,
Chennai-35 Dated:24.10.2020.

From

A.Gnanasekaran IAS
Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board &
Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services
Chennai-35.

To

Animal Welfare Board of India,
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
National Institute of Animal Welfare Campus
P.O. 42 KM Stone, Delhi-Agra Highway, NH-2,
Village-Seekri, Ballabgarh,
Faridabad, Haryana-121 004 India.

Sir,

- | | |
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| Sub | Allegations of Illegal catching and relocation/Impounding of stray dogs in IIT-Madras - reg. |
| Ref | 1. AWBI Letter no.0-2/2020-21/PCA,dt:21.10.2020
2. Message received from Sri.Somnath Bhattacharya on 07.10.20 and Sri.Madhusudhanan, Professors, IIT,Madras on 11.10.2020 and e-mail received from the students of IIT-Madras on 18.10.2020.
3. This office Roc.No.32724/TNAWB/2020, dated.12.10.2020 & 19.10.2020
4. Report of the 3 member committee,dated.20.10.2020.
5. Letter from Registrar, IIT- Madras, dated.21.10.2020. |

I wish to state that complaints has been received regarding the Illegal catching and relocation/Impounding of stary, dogs inside the IIT-Madras campus

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vide the ref 2nd cited. Many complaints were received orally and in whatsapp at the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board from Mr. Madhusudhanan who identified himself as a Professor of IIT Madras and Member of the Board of management of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and Mr.Somnath Bhattacharya since 7.10.2020 mentioning that the administration is not permitting animal lovers to feed the stray dogs that are roaming within the campus and a circular has been issued indicating that the feeding will be restricted to certain identified spots only and that too within specific timings. It was also mentioned by Mr. Madhusudhanan that ladies and girl volunteers who feed the animals are being inappropriately photographed by the management.

It was further mentioned that the stray dogs within the IIT Madras campus were caught and confined in an enclosure by an Animal Welfare Organization named Jeeva karunya Animal Welfare Charitable Trust and that none of the animal lovers are permitted to see what is happening inside the shelter and no information in this regard is being told by the IIT Madras Administration.

A letter was sent to the Director, IIT-Madras vide ref 3rd cited indicating the contents in the repeated oral complaints received from the above two individuals requesting him to furnish a report to the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board on the activities related to feeding of the stray dogs within the campus of IIT-Madras, the present population of the stray dogs within their campus, status of ABC surgeries performed if any, mechanism if any instituted to monitor the general health and well being of the dogs, health issues faced by the dogs and the veterinary interventions provided and the activities undertaken by the NGO namely Jeeva Karunya Animal Welfare Charitable Trust on 12.08.2020.

Complaint Dt.18.10.2020

In the meanwhile, an e-mail sent by Friends of Animals consisting of students and alumni of IIT Madras was received on 18.10.2020, mentioning that they have been taking care of dogs and other animals on the campus actively, feeding them and neuter them to keep their population in check.

The E-mail mentioned the engagement of Jeeva karunya Animal Welfare Charitable Trust for taking care of these animals and heavy restrictions are being imposed on the animal lovers in feeding these dogs at their usual spots. The mail also mentions that the NGO has started capturing all campus dogs even the ones that are already neutered and vaccinated, one by one and putting them in the caged area near the research park gate of IITM and even the administration is not providing any details and the captured dogs include old ones with arthritis, skin problem, and distemper survivor with some of them are under medical treatment. The mail requests the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board to look into the matter and ensure the well-being of campus dogs.

Visit of Fact Finding Team of TNAWB

In this context, a team of officials were deputed vide the ref 3rd cited on a fact finding mission to assess the situation prevailing at IIT-Madras. The team was headed by the Regional Joint Director, Kancheepuram, Clinician, Veterinary Polyclinic, Saidapet and a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon from the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board.

The team visited the campus and observed the measures initiated by the IIT-Madras Administration and has submitted a report vide the ref 4th cited. As per the report, the team had met the Registrar, IIT, Madras and the Registrar had mentioned that there was a population of 176 stray dogs within the campus, scattered across the campus and encroached into the deer and black buck corridor and approximately 400 deers within the campus, and the population has drastically reduced to about 110 now which was mainly due to certain deficiencies in the solid waste management and stray dogs. Due to availability of food, both deer and stray dogs would come in search of food which also results in deer being bitten. The Registrar had also mentioned that as per the orders of the National Green Tribunal, a three member committee was formed for undertaking solid waste management practices and taking care of the wild life population within the campus. Based on the recommendations of the three member committee, the activities are being undertaken for which the NGO, Jeevakarunya Animal Welfare Charitable Trust, an organization authorized by the Animal Welfare Board of India has been engaged.

The feeding of the dogs and the number of spots designated for feeding stray dogs has been increased from 5 to 14 spots. The team also mentioned that the space provided for the dog shelter is adequate enough and an air-conditioned operation theatre has been established for performing ABC surgeries and on the day of the team's visit, they observed that one dog was castrated and it was under observation. The daily drugs accounts register, Micro chipping register, Daily report, Treatment register, Daily waste register, Rescue register, Feral fogs register, Dog Catching and balance register, stock register are maintained. The team also observed all the 34 dogs that were kept in the shelter during their visit. The team has reported that all the dogs are kept well in the shelter and no instances of cruelty could be observed at the shelter.

Report of Registrar, IIT-Madras

The Registrar, IIT-Madras in the reply to the letter sent on 12.10.2020 by this Board, has mentioned that the complainant Mr. Madhusudhanan is neither a professor nor a resident of IIT Madras. The Registrar mentions that stray dog menace is severe during the past 5 years with many stray dogs were let loose in to the campus by outsiders/agencies. The stray dogs were reportedly caught by the Chennai Corporation till 2012 and based on a Supreme Court's order, the strays are not removed since 2013, with the result, their menace has been severe during the past 3-4 years. **As per the Registrar, in many instances, the deer have been chased and bitten by packs of ferocious dogs and each week, atleast 2 to 3 deer/blackbuck deaths are reported on the campus.**

Injuries to humans and wild life due to dog bites

It was also mentioned that the number of dog bite cases of humans treated at IIT-M hospital is 27 and 38 during 2019 and 2020(till Oct 2020) respectively and number of anti-rabies injections given for dog bite to humans is 300 and 190 during 2019 and 2020 (till Oct 2020) respectively.

The number of deaths of deers were 86, 96, 79 and 72 during 2017, 2018, 2019 and till Oct 2020 respectively and the number of deers bitten by dogs were 51, 55, 39 and 30 during 2017, 2018, 2019 and till Oct 2020 respectively.

Permanent Committee to monitor the activities of solid waste management and garbage disposal and protection of wildlife

The Registrar IIT-M also mentions that the National Green Tribunal vide order dt.26.02.2020 had ordered to constitute a permanent committee to monitor the activities of solid waste management and garbage disposal and protection of wildlife inside the IIT-M campus comprising of Faculty member of Environmental discipline from IIT- M, Wild life Warden of Guindy National Park and Senior Officer from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. The order also mentions that the committee shall evolve a long term management plan to protect wildlife within the campus. If any short term plan is required, they are at liberty to prepare the same for the purpose of immediate implementation to protect wildlife within the campus. The Committee had discussed the issues related to stray dogs and had suggested remedial measures such as feeding points, feeding norms, the appointment of AWBI agency etc., as an intervention to reduce wildlife mortality. The IIT Management co-ordinates and consults with the Wildlife Warden and Veterinarian, Chennai Wildlife Division, for the protection of wildlife on campus on a continual basis. Moreover, the sub-committee on field level implementation also has the Chennai Corporation Veterinarian as a member.

Designated Feeding Spots

Further, the Registrar, IITM has also stated that as directed by the NGT nominated Permanent Committee, a Circular-cum-Notice dtd.14.09.2020 for feeding of stray dogs and registration of pets animals along with five feeding locations was issued and the number of feeding locations was subsequently increased to 15 as directed by the Permanent Committee on 17.09.2020, based on the request of few interested parties along with external agencies despite immense opposition and severe concern from faculty members and residents against increased additional feeding locations. The senior-most faculty members residing on campus met the Permanent Committee and submitted the outcome of a survey conducted on "the increase in feeding location and feral dog menace" among faculty

members which showed that 98% were against the increase in feeding locations and requested administration to isolate the feral dogs.

Engagement of Animal Welfare Organization

The Registrar has further stated that as per the Permanent Committee's recommendation, an AWBI recognized agency was appointed and entrusted the work of complete free-ranging/stray dogs management process including survey, scheduled feeding at designated locations, treat sick dogs, isolate feral dogs, conduct ABC, ARV, Microchipping, etc. It has also been informed by the Registrar that various dog -related infrastructure facilities have been created on the campus, such as treatment room, surgery room, fenced open yard, enclosures for sick/old and dogs under treatment, and feeding points facilities.

At present, the AWBI recognized agency had started their work to rescue and rehabilitate free-ranging/stray dogs and treatment. As the rehabilitation work has just begun and is yet to stabilize, no outsiders are being allowed into the facility. M/s Jeeva Karunya Animal Welfare Charitable Trust, AWBI recognized agency is strictly complying with the AWBI norms in the rescue and rehabilitation of free-roaming dogs. The dogs are taken care of by a team lead by a Veterinarian appointed by the AWBI recognized agency. The feral dogs are captured and kept in the open enclosure for behavioral observations. After proper evaluation by the Veterinarian, the dogs are being released to their original locations. The Registrar further mentions that there has been vigorous and sustained opposition from a few interested parties/outside agencies against the implementation of NGT nominated Permanent Committee recommendations.

Conclusion


Going by the reports furnished by the Registrar, IIT-M and the fact finding team constituted by the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board, it seems that the stray dogs are not subjected to any forms of cruelty and there is no violation of any of the animal welfare laws. The Jeeva karunya Animal Welfare Trust is recognized as an Animal Welfare Organization by the Animal Welfare Board of India (TN 206/2019).


I had personally spoken to the Registrar of IIT-Madras regarding the issue. The Registrar is open to suggestions if any to be offered in this issue. The fact finding team requested that a weekly report may be furnished to the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board regarding the activities connected to the management of stray dogs within the IIT-Madras campus. The allegations against the management of IIT-M and the Animal Welfare Organization employed by them are not based on facts and hence may be ignored.

This is for favour of kind information.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- A. Gnanasekaran,
Director of Animal Husbandry and
Veterinary Services, Chennai - 35.

//True Copy//Forwarded//


Assistant Director,
O/o. The Director of Animal Husbandry
and Veterinary Services, Chennai - 35.


24/10/2020

