

MINUTES OF THE 41st GENERAL MEETING OF ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA HELD ON 09.8.2014 AT CHENNAI

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM (Retd.)	-	Chairman
2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna	-	Vice Chairman
3. Shri Surjit Singh	}	
Joint Secretary (AW), MOEF	}	
4. Prof. Suresh S. Honnappagol	}	
Animal Husbandry Commissioner	}	
5. Shri Jai Raj, IFS	}	
Addl. PCCF, Uttarakhand	}	
6. Brig. S.S. Chohan, VSM (Retd.)	}	
Representative of Gurgaon Municipal Corporation	}	
7. Dr. Arun Sirkeck	}	
Representative of Shimla Municipal Corporation	}	
8. Shri A.J. Anandan, IPS (Retd)	}	
9. Shri Doulat Jain	}	Members
10. Dr. Sandeep K. Jain	}	
11. Shri N.G. Jayasimha	}	
12. Shri Anil Sancheti	}	
13. Shri Vinod Bam	}	
14. Shri Shivayya Swamy Kamthana	}	
15. Ms. Norma Alvares	}	
16. Ms. Anjali Sharma	}	
17. Ms. Sowmya Reddy	}	
18. Dr. (Mrs.) Vasanthamma	}	
19. Shri S. Vinod Kumar	}	Secretary I/c, AWBI

Shri V.Vumlunmang, IAS, Joint Secretary (Foreigners), Representative of Ministry of Home Affairs, and Shri S.Shankar, Deputy Secretary (HE), representative of Ministry of Human Resources Development requested for leave of absence and the same was granted.

Hon'ble Chairman extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the Members of the Board to its 41st General Meeting. He requested the Board Members to introduce themselves and the Members gave self introduction with details of their association with animal welfare activities. Chairman specially welcomed the Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt. of India, Prof. Suresh Hannappagol as he was attending the Board meeting for the first time.

Hon'ble Chairman addressed the Members and informed them about the landmark judgement passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 7.5.2014 in the

Jallikattu case. The Supreme Court has given directions to the Board and Governments to implement the PCA Act for the welfare of animals in the country. He also informed the Members that the draft Animal Welfare Bill 2014 has been submitted to the Ministry after taking into consideration the judgement of the Supreme Court.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members about his concern of increase in the incidences of man-animal conflict day by day in our society. There is an increase in the reports about conflicts between man and domestic animals and wildlife. PCA Act and Rules are not being implemented by law enforcement agencies like State Governments, State Animal Welfare Boards, District SPCAs and Police as they neither are conversant with the Laws nor there is any sensitivity towards addressing the animal cruelties. The Board is trying to sensitise them but only few States have constituted and strengthened the SAWBs and District SPCAs. Uttarakhand is doing an excellent work through a well functional SAWB and District SPCAs. The Board desired this model to be replicated in all the States. The Board and the Ministry will write to the States once again to make animal protection law enforcement through the State agencies. The Board would like the enforcement machinery to become effective so that the animals can be saved from abuse.

Hon'ble Chairman informed the Members that Animal Welfare has been included as one of the items in CSR by the Government. This will help AWOs to get funding from the Corporate sector for animal welfare activities.

Hon'ble Chairman emphasized the need for creating awareness in the society towards compassion and humane treatment of animals. The Board should be more proactive to ensure that children are sensitized at the school level so that people can change their outlook towards animals. Chairman requested the Members to contribute their involvement for this noble cause.

Hon'ble Chairman congratulated the Blue Cross of India, Chennai for being named as one of the top 100 AWOs in the world. Chairman also congratulated Ms. Norma Alvares, the only Padmashri awardee, for becoming the Chairperson of Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations (FIAPO). Ms. Norma Alvares invited all the Members of the Board to attend the upcoming "India For Animals" national conference being organized by FIAPO at Jaipur in September 2014.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the members about the Rashtriya Gokul Mission announced by the Government of India to conserve and improve the indigenous cattle breeds with a budget of Rs.500 Crores. The Chairman informed that the Board would like to participate in this mission and start with three States viz. Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat as pilot projects from this year and from next year the programme may be extended to neighbouring States like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Punjab. The good Gaushalas in these States may be identified and recommended to the Ministry of Agriculture, Dept. of Animal Husbandry for implementation of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Item No.1: Confirmation of minutes of previous GM

The Minutes of the 41st General Meeting of the Board held on 9.8.2014 were confirmed.

Item No.2: Action taken on decisions of previous GM.

The decision and action taken of the 40th General Meeting of the Board held on 27.3.2014 were reviewed and noted with the following directions/suggestions:

The Members suggested that the constitution of the Sub-Committees under Item No.11 is to be intimated to all the Sub-Committee Members by the Board. The following Members are nominated as 'Convenor' of the Sub-Committees:

1. Sub-Committee on Performing Animals - Vice Chairman
2. Grants Sub-Committee - Vice chairman
3. Legal Sub-Committee - Ms. Anjali Sharma
4. Humane Education Sub-Committee - Dr. Sandeep K. Jain &
Ms. Sowmya Reddy
5. Editorial Sub-Committee - Shri N. G. Jayasimha
6. ABC/AR Sub-Committee - Ms. Norma Alvares
7. Gaushala Sub-Committee - Brig. S.S. Chohan (Retd.)
Shri Anil Sancheti
Shri Vinod Bam
Shri Shivayya Swamy Kamthana
8. Fund Raising and Awareness - Shri Doulat Jain
9. Transportation and Farm animals - Shri N.G. Jayasimha

The Convenors for the Regional Sub-Committee will be decided later. The Convenor of the Sub-Committee will keep all Members apprised about the working of the Sub-Committee.

The Secretary I/c informed the Board about the Moonlight Circus matter. Hon'ble Chairman informed about the meeting to be held with Inspector General of Wild Life, MoEF about the rehabilitation of the animals of circus. Mr. Jai Raj IFS, informed that he is willing to join the delegation of Hon'ble Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Ms. Anjali Sharma to meet the IG Wild Life, MOEF for discussion in this matter.

Mr. Anil Sancheti and Mr. Vinod Bam, Members, requested that the minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee to be circulated to all the Members of the Board for their information, which was accepted. The Board directed that letters should be sent to the Sub-Committee Members about their nomination.

Item No.3: Discussion on modalities to streamline issue of certificate under Rule 96 of Transport of Animals Rules 2001

Hon'ble Chairman informed the Members that at present the Certificate under Rule 96 is issued by the State Government Veterinarian not below the rank of

Assistant Director/SDO and Health Certificate by a Veterinary Surgeon. The Members informed the Board that this system is not working properly in most of the places as Animal Husbandry Officials are not available and the farmers are in great difficulty for transportation of their cattle for genuine purpose. These certificates are supposed to be issued by animal welfare activists to ensure proper implementation of Rule 96. We have to identify suitable persons to issue certificates with Animal Husbandry Officials and responsibility will be on the person who recommends the individual.

Hon'ble Chairman emphasized the need to have workshops to sensitise the Veterinary Doctors and AHD Officials for proper implementation of Rule 96. At present there is lack of co-ordination between the AHD and Panchayat Raj in many places. The Board requested Ms. Anjali Sharma and Members to formulate a mechanism to ensure that Rule 96 is effectively implemented. A proposal is to be sent to the Ministry for the same.

The Board requested Prof. Suresh S. Honnappagol, Animal Husbandry Commissioner and Member of the Board to pursue the matter with the State Animal Husbandry Department. The AHC agreed that he would take up the matter with the State Governments. The AHC also suggested that workshops may be conducted in collaboration with AHD and AWBI in all States to get the AHD Officials familiar with the modalities. Board will provide a draft letter to Animal Husbandry Commissioner for addressing this issue with Director Animal Husbandry of all States.

Item No.4: Discussion on modalities on implementing Jallikattu Judgement of Supreme Court.

Ms. Anjali Sharma appraised the Board about the salient points of the judgement given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Shri Jai Raj opined that letters, circulars sent to the Chief Secretaries is to be endorsed to Members of the Board in addition to other dignitaries for better co-ordination with the State Governments. The Joint Secretary (AW) informed that the Ministry is processing the Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2014 sent by the Board.

The Board has requested the Animal Husbandry Commissioner to take steps to sensitise the Animal Husbandry Officials about the Supreme Court judgement and about the five freedoms for animals as more animals come under the control of AH Department. A draft letter in this regard will be provided by the Board to Animal Husbandry Commissioner to address the issue with State Animal Husbandry Depts.

Item No.5: Discussion on amendment to ABC Rules 2001 (as amended in 2010) to amend Rule 12 regarding registration of dog breeders with AWBI

The Board decided to request the Legal Sub-Committee to look into the matter regarding amendment of Rule 12 and to provide a suitable action plan for the Board / MoEF.

The Board approved a request to amend ABC Rules, so as to remove the misconception regarding the definition of the term Dog Pound in Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules 2001. The Legal Sub-Committee is authorised to provide a proposal for the MOEF.

Item No.6: Discussion on inspection of AWOs applying for recognition and financial assistance.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed about the system of inspection prevailing in the Board. The Board decided that henceforth the Inspection Report will be sought from Animal Husbandry Department and SAWB only. The office has to inform Members of the details of the Nodal Officers in SAWB/AHD, so that they can take up the issue of delay in IR if it is brought to their notice.

The Board requested the Animal Husbandry Commissioner to write to the State Animal Husbandry Department to hasten the process of inspection of AWOs for consideration of grant under various schemes of AWBI. The Board will provide a draft of this letter to Animal Husbandry Commissioner for addressing the same to State Animal Husbandry Depts.

The details of pending Utilization Certificates from AWOs are to be given to Members to take action bring down the pendency of UCs.

Item No.7: Discussion for increasing maximum eligible grant to organizations under Shelter House Scheme and Ambulance Services scheme.

The Board discussed about the matter and felt that increase of the eligible grant amount as proposed would result in less AWOs being benefited by the scheme as the budget is not enhanced by the Ministry. As per the guidelines of the shelter house scheme, maximum 25% of expenditure can be adjusted in the component wise expenditure. The same should be mentioned in the sanction letter for information of the AWOs.

Item No.8: Discussion on TANUVAS Report/SOP on CNVR

The Chairman briefed the Board members that on the initiative of the MoEF a scientific study of the concept of same day release also commonly referred to as CNVR (which in fact means Catch Neuter, Vaccinate and Release) was carried out by TANUVAS in 2009. The Ministry had asked AWBI to draw a SOP on CNVR (Same Day Release).

The Chairman clarified that the Board has not approved the "Same Day Release" concept of ABC/AR programme and neither has the Ministry. The TANUVAS report has highlighted some positive and also some negative aspects of the same day release concept (CNVR) of Spay / Neuter programme of street dogs.

The Chairman then requested Board member Ms. Norma Alvares to provide her views on the ongoing WVS – ABC/AR programme in Goa where stray dogs are being released after keeping them for one night post operatively. However, it is not the Same Day Release programme. Ms. Norma Alvares informed that though she

had earlier opposed the concept of Same Day Release also erroneously mentioned as CNVR by some people, she found the ongoing WVS – ABC/AR programme delivering good results as the Vets are highly skilled and they are using superior quality of suture material. There are no adverse reports and as such, the Goa Administration is thinking of adopting this fast track method of ABC/AR programme.

Thereafter the Chairman pointed out that there are several civic bodies and NGOs who are practicing the same day release programme after Spay / Neuter surgeries which are resulting in many post operative complications and even deaths of operated dogs. There is no regulation / check on these NGOs / AWOs / Civic bodies. May be if there is an SOP on same day release, some check could be imposed.

Mrs. Anjali Sharma putting forward her views strongly opposed the idea of having a SOP on Same Day Release / CNVR concept of ABC/AR programme. She concluded her views by saying that if we have a SOP on Same Day Release it will open flood gates for irresponsible NGOs / AWOs / Civic bodies to start this concept on a large scale resulting in huge cruelties to the street dogs. Some other members also opined that this concept needs further study by other professional bodies before finalising an SOP on it.

The Animal Husbandry Commissioner opined that we need to take views from other Veterinary professionals / Universities on various aspects of Same Day Release concept and then decide about SOP.

The Chairman concluded that at present we do not have adequate number of skilled Veterinarians in the country to adopt the Same Day Release programme as has been the case in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bali where the concept has been successfully implemented. The concept requires expert surgeons and strict surgical protocols. We need to focus on providing more avenues for conducting quality training programmes for our Vets / Para Vets and Dog Catchers to upgrade their skills to make even our ongoing ABC/AR programme to deliver good results and minimise trauma on operated dogs.

The Board deferred the matter.

Item No.9: Discussion on roadmap for implementation of ABC programme

Hon'ble Chairman informed the Members that the Ministry is insisting for census of stray dogs is to be carried out first and then ABC programme to be implemented. Moreover, funding for ABC/AR to civic areas where the programme has been going on for more than 5 years should be stopped. The Members opined that the funding to the AWOs by the AWBI should be phased out gradually only as stopping the funding of the programme immediately without the Local body stepping in would nullify the progress achieved in such places in controlling Rabies and population of street dogs.

The Chairman informed that the contractors doing ABC programme in some civic bodies are not committed to animal welfare. As far as Board is concerned its duty is to create awareness and make civic bodies participate to implement the ABC

programme as mandated by ABC (Dogs) Rules 2001 and eventually take complete responsibility of funding it.

The Joint Secretary (AW) informed that as already communicated to the Board, the decision of the Ministry is that the Board, having pan India responsibility has to move out of the areas where it has been funding the programme for the last 5 years or so and concentrate on new areas. The Board is also supposed to have an impact assessment of the programme where it is funding the programme for the last 5 years or so. As regards Chennai, since the city has achieved the target of 70% of sterilisation of dog population and in view of the fact that Chennai is included in the NCDC programme funded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during the current plan period, the AWBI funds cannot be used for Chennai. He also informed that the Ministry has convened a meeting on 12.8.2014 with the three Municipal Corporations in Delhi and NDMC to implement the ABC programme. He also told that AWBI has to create awareness and target is entire India as rabies free. Small target will not make any impact in the programme.

It was decided that the Board will request the big Corporations like Chennai, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Goa where the Board has been funding for over five years that they have to take over the entire funding for implementing the programme and also inform to the AWOs. The Board approved the reply circulated by Chairman for sending it to the Ministry.

The Board also decided to request the Ministry to address letters to Ministry of Urban Development for local bodies to fund ABC programme as it is the responsibility of Urban Development Department to implement the ABC/AR programme.

Item No.10: Discussion on Circus animals registered under Performing Animals (Registration) Rules 2001 cruelty reported.

The Board has taken note of the matter.

Item No.11: To review the system for publication of AWBI Journals in view of delay – Initiate action against the Editor of Publications, AWBI for not doing his job as required for designation.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members about the matter. The Board approved to conduct disciplinary proceedings against Dr. R.B. Chaudhary, Editor of Publications, AWBI.

The Board authorised Shri N. G. Jayasimha, Member to handle the Editorial work and publication of monthly Newsletter, Animal Citizen and Jeev Sarathi. It was suggested that the contents of the Animal Citizen and Jeev Sarathi will be combined by translation of matter into Hindi and published as bilingual magazine from January 2014 issue. Shri Jayasimha was requested to submit the monetary implications for translation, typesetting and printing of the journals.

Item No.12: Discussions

i) AWBI Audit Report

The Secretary I/c briefed the Members about the observations in the Draft Audit Report received for the year 2013-14 and the Board noted the matter.

ii) AWBI Grants for Financial Year 2014-15

The Board has taken note of the matter. The Board decided to release the grant under ABC scheme to AWOs/SPCAs/LBs to whom the total grant in the financial year is less than Rs.15.00 lakhs subject to the same being approved by the Grant Sub Committee.

iii) Cruelty to Temple elephants

The Board has taken note of the matter. The Board is taking necessary action to conduct an inspection of the temple elephants in Guruvayur as requested by IG (WL), MoEF.

iv) Brief on National Rabies Control Programme (Pilot Project) (Animal Component)

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members and the Board noted the matter. Chairman informed that survey will be completed by HSI by mid August 2014 and sterilization will be started in mid September 2014. The mass ARV programme for street dogs for outer Chennai will also be covered under this programme.

v) New Animal Welfare Bill 2014

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members that the draft Animal Welfare Bill 2014 has been submitted to the Ministry after taking into consideration the judgement of the Supreme Court and the Board noted the matter.

vi) Staff matters

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members and emphasized the need for additional staff in AWBI. The Joint Secretary (AW) has informed that the Ministry has taken up the matter with the IFD, MOEF.

vii) Upcoming FIAPO Conference at Jaipur

The Chairman requested the Board Members to attend the India For Animals Conference organised FIAPO at Jaipur and informed that the Board will reimburse the travelling expenses of the Members. The Chairman requested Ms. Norma Alvares, Chairperson of FIAPO to provide lodging & boarding facilities to the Members at Jaipur.

viii) Creating Animal Welfare awareness in schools/society for humane treatment of Animals/training in Animal Laws

Hon'ble Chairman informed the Members that the Board is ready to provide materials for awareness programme to the Board members. It was decided to provide one kit for each Member including printing materials and CD of documentary prepared during the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Shri Jayasimha suggested that the Police training can be clubbed with animal welfare activists programme as was done in Kolkatta by HSI.

ix) Minutes of AWBI meeting with Turf Authorities of India

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members on this and the Board noted the matter.

x) Dog Pounds in Leh/Ladakh

The Board took note of the action initiated by Chairman with Ladakh administration.

xi) Brief on ongoing court cases

The Board has taken note of the matter. Ms.Norma Alvares suggested that Members should try to get lawyers to represent the Board in the legal cases on probono basis or nominal fees and Board requested the Members to suggest names of lawyers who are willing to do so.

Additional Item No.1: Discussion of the matter prior approval of the Ministry may be obtained by AWBI only in those cases where allocation of a grant of Rs.15 lakhs to one AWO in a financial year.

The Board has taken note of the matter.

Additional Item No.2: Discussion of the matter relating to the non-payment for ABC work by Kolkatta Municipal Corporation.

The Board has taken note of the matter.

Additional Item No.3: Points/suggestions received from Hon'ble Members of the Board for discussion.

The Joint Secretary (AW) informed the Members that the Ministry of Finance has not agreed to the demand for increas of the Budget for animal welfare.

Shri Vinod Bam, Member requested the Board/Ministry to issue letter to the Chief Secretaries, District Collectors about the nomination of Members by the notification of AWBI reconstitution with a copy to the concerned Member. The Board

decided to write letters to the Chief Secretaries in respect of the non-official members.

The Board decided that if a Board Member recommends for issue / renewal of HAWO Card upto a limit of 5 taking personal responsibility for his proper functioning and proof of his past work and he being duly qualified and he is also sponsored by AWO, then ID cards can be issued. But the said person will have to successfully undergo a training at NIAW.

The Board considered the matter of transit permit raised by Shri Anil Sancheti and decided to send a letter to Government of Rajasthan to look into the matter.

Shri Jai Raj informed the Board that before nominating the Board Members to other States for co-ordination, the Board has to take precautions to keep the status and name of AWBI.

It was decided that the Members shall take approval from Chairman before going to other States for official visits and functions. Due to limited funding it will not be possible to provide financial support for TA / DA of Board members.

Additional Item No.4: Consideration of matter relating to conferring of Prani Mitra Awards/Jeev Daya Puraskar Awards to the animal lovers/activists and Humanitarians/AWOs who have rendered excellent service in the field of animal welfare.

The Board discussed the matter and decided that Prani Mitra Awards and Jeev Daya Puraskar can be considered to be re-instituted but the Board would have to first work out the financial implications and modalities and a proposal is to be sent to the Ministry for approval. The financial implication would include the holding of a function for the purpose, calling the awardees and their attendants to the function, expenses on their boarding/lodging etc.

After the final decision is taken to re-institute the awards, the Board will have to write to the Chief Secretaries of all States to forward names for consideration of awards. In addition, the notice may have to put on the website and publications of AWBI for wider circulation.

Additional Item No.5: Consideration of Revival/Review of the HAWO IDs issued earlier and cancelled due to some complaints.

The Board noted that ID cards are being issued with due caution now and the Chairman explained the intricacies involved in revival of old HAWO Cards.

Additional Item No.6: Proposal for participation of Gaushalas in indigenous cattle breed improvement programme under Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

The Board decided to participate in this mission and proposed to start with three States viz. Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat as a pilot project from this year and from next year it be extended to neighbouring States like Uttar Pradesh,

Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Punjab. The good Gaushalas in these States may be identified and recommended to the Ministry of Agriculture for implementation of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Additional Item No.7: Consideration of matter relating to save the camel

Brig. S.S. Chohan (Retd), Member briefed the Members and the Board noted the matter. The Rajasthan Government is contemplating to introduce a law to protect the camels and regulate their travelling outside Rajasthan.

Additional Item No.8: Discussion of the matter relating to implementation of ABC Programme as per CNVR by Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Bangalore.

The Board took note of the matter. The Board has not approved same day release and the Board has also written to the BBMP Bangalore to ensure that post operative care is provided by keeping the dogs for at least two nights post surgery.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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