

**MINUTES OF THE 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD
OF INDIA HELD AT CHENNAI ON 29TH & 30TH NOVEMBER 2011.**

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM	-	Chairman
2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna	-	Vice Chairman
3. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS	}	
4. Shri Doulat Jain	}	
5. Ms. Jasjit Purewal	}	
6. Dr. Agsar Hassan Samoon, IAS	}	
7. Dr. Arun Varma	}	
8. Dr. Sunil Kumar	}	
9. Brig S.S. Chohan, Rep. Of MCG	}	
10. Shri Guljarilal soni	}	
11. Smt. Amala Akkineni	}	
12. Ms. Anjali Sharma	}	
13. Shri Anjani Kumar	}	Special Invitee
Director, AWD, MoEF, Government of India		
14. Shri P.K. Aggarwal	}	Special Invitee
Under Secretary (AW) MOEF		
15. Shri S. Vinod Kumaar	}	Assistant Secretary, AWBI

The following Members of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) Dr. Amarjeet Singh Nanda, AHC, Shri A.K. Srivastava, IGF (WL), (Mrs.) M. Lahkar, Smt. Norma Alvares and Dr. J.C. Kochar requested for leave of absence and the same was granted.

Honb'le Chairman extended a warm welcome to all the Members of the Board for its 44th Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman requested the Board Members to introduce themselves and the Members did so. They focused particularly on the details of their association with animal welfare activities.

Thereafter, as a part of the general discussion that preceded consideration of the items on the agenda :

The Chairman informed the Board that the draft Animal Welfare Act 2011 drawn out and finalized by the Board, and submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, is under the consideration of the Ministry. He expressed the hope that the new Act will be enacted as law in the near future.

The Chairman also informed the Board that the C & AG of India has issued a separate Audit Report on the accounts of the AWBI for the year 2010-11, and noted that there are no major observations.

It was mentioned by those present that an increasing number of reports of human monkey conflict were being received. The Chairman suggested that sterilization options should be explored.

The Chairman also emphasized the need to conduct a population survey for animals, which could be undertaken by the Animal Husbandry departments of the respective State Governments.

The Chairman next briefed the Members about the SIU visit at the Board, for 10 days in March 2011, and informed all present that the Chairman & Vice Chairman interacted with the SIU team. He also informed the Board about the recommendation of the SIU for a total of 38 staff members for the AWBI, and expressed regret in the delay in implementing the report.

The ABC programme and the fact that it must have greater reach and scope, was then discussed. The Chairman pointed out, and the members of the Board agreed that the rates for the ABC programme should be revised from Rs.445/- to around Rs.600 - Rs.700/-.

The Chairman then apprised the Board about the training programme conducted for training dog catchers, the training programme in Haryana for Gaushala personnel, Honorary Animal Welfare Officer (HAWO) training programme for HAWOs and the Workshop conducted for Co-opted Members at NIAW, Ballabgarh. He also informed the members that the VBB team is likely to train more Vets and Para Vets in February 2012. He also informed the Board that the Master Animal Handlers training programme for Vets and Para Vets is being conducted by WVS at Ooty. He also apprised all present about the training programme conducted by HSI at Srinagar. The Chairman emphasized that training is extremely important, and suggested that even butchers should be trained for humane slaughter. The importance of training for promoting animal welfare should never be underestimated.

The Chairman also informed the Board about the visit of the Chairman Brookes Hospital UK and the former Chairman of WSPA Maj. Gen. (Retd) Peter Davis along with former Chairman AWBI Lt. Gen. (Retd) A.K. Chatterjee to the Board on 1st November 2011, and the visit of Prof. Warran of Edinburgh University who also gave a presentation at New Delhi to the Ministry in September 2011.

The Chairman then touched upon the fact that the huge increase in both, human and animal population is resulting in increased man - animal conflict.

The Chairman then emphasized the need for effective functioning of State Animal Welfare Boards. The members agreed. It was also noted that State Animal

Welfare Boards are functioning only in few states like Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and West Bengal.

The Chairman next informed the Board that an Advisory had been issued to all concerned to emphasize that cropping of ears and docking of tails of dogs is illegal; and that the Veterinary Council of India had issued instructions as well, to all concerned, to follow the advisory. He also informed the members that an Advisory had also been issued to all concerned authorities to prevent forced molting of hens by starving them.

The Chairman also informed the Board that the Ministry has issued a notification in July 2011 banning the use of bulls as performing animals, and specified that they cannot be exhibited or trained as performing animals.

Further, that race horses have also been brought within the ambit of the Performing Animals Registration Rules, and on account of registration of race horses belonging to the several race clubs, an amount of Rs.23,00,000/- has been collected as registration fees.

The fact that FIAPO is doing good work to address Animal Welfare concerns of large animals and trying to combat cruelties in commercial dairy farms is what was next discussed.

The Chairman also pointed out that Committees should be formed, comprising of retired / serving Veterinary Officers and Animal Welfare Activists in all parts of India, to ensure inspection of slaughter houses. It was agreed that the Board should prepare a format for the inspection of slaughter houses. The Chairman also pointed out that extra funds are needed for the inspection of slaughter houses.

The next issue discussed by and between the Chairman and the members of the Board, was that the celebration of Golden Jubilee on completion of 50 years of the establishment of AWBI, should be conducted in a befitting manner. All agreed that the same would have to be carefully planned and executed in 2012.

The Chairman also thanked Vice Chairman for sparing his time and supporting in the running of the Chennai office. The Chairman appreciated the services of Shri Doulat Jain as well, for helping in Performing Animals Sub Committee. The Chairman also congratulated Smt Amala Akkineni for her 19 years of serving on the Board, and also for ABC work, rescue work, educational programmes undertaken in the context of animal welfare, and for the training of AWOs in Andhra Pradesh. The Chairman next appreciated Ms. Anjali Sharma who is not only a lawyer and an animal welfare activist on the management committee of the SPCA Noida, but is also assisting the Board in legal cases in a big way.

Chairman appreciated the commitment of Shri Vinod Kumar, Asst. Secretary, and commended him for running the Board office effectively for the past 17 months, in

the absence of a Secretary. Shri S. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Secretary thanked the Chairman & Vice Chairman and all the Members for the guidance given to him.

ITEM NO.1: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2010-11.

The Assistant Secretary, AWBI briefed the members about the audit remarks of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of AWBI for the year 2010-11.

The Chairman pointed out that Annual Accounts had been submitted to the CAG, and the CAG had approved the same with a remarks about pendency of Utilisation Certificates to be received from AWOs, and the contribution portion of the Board in the Provident Fund shown as income instead of liability. He informed the Board that the UCs are collected from the organizations and the pendency as of now is 5% from plan grant and 3.16% from CSS. out of the total number of AWOs to whom grants are released. The Chairman also congratulated Shri Vinod Kumar for doing a good job with the accounts. The Chairman also pointed out that in the draft of the Annual Report, there are small typographical errors, etc. which will be corrected.

The Board approved the Annual Report and adopted the separate Audit Report of the C&AG of India on the accounts of the Board for the year 2010-11.

ITEM NO.2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting held on 27th & 28th January, 2011.

The Board confirmed the Minutes of the 43rd AGM held on 27th & 28th January 2011.

ITEM NO.3: Report on action taken on the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 27th January, 2011 to 28th January, 2011.

The Board decided that State wise list of AWOs whose UCs are pending will be prepared and forwarded to the Members/Co-opted Members and SAWBs for collection of the same from concerned AWOs.

The Board also resolved that the Animal Husbandry Department should be contacted to expedite inspections and also decided to form Regional Inspection teams to inspect slaughter houses, and decided to consult the Veterinary Council of India to get their inputs regarding how to go about it. It was also agreed that the District Magistrate can be approached for providing adequate security. The Board also resolved that awareness programmes should be initiated for butchers to ensure humane slaughtering, and agreed that a State level seminar was required for the purpose. It was also suggested and agreed that the Board should prepare an inspection format for the inspection of slaughter houses so that it could be sent to the concerned persons who go for inspections.

ITEM NO.4: Ratification of the Minutes of the 115th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 26.3.2011 and Action taken Report of the 116th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 26.7.2011

The Minutes of the 115th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 26.03.11 and 116th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 26.07.11 were confirmed and ratified. The action taken report was noted.

PFA Haryana

It was agreed that the copy of the inspection report received from the State Animal Welfare Board, Haryana will be studied and legal action taken against the organization for non-furnishing of documents, utilization certificates and non-utilization of Ambulance.

ITEM NO.5: Ratification of Revised Estimates 2011-12 and Budget Estimates 2012-13 submitted to Ministry.

The Board considered the Revised Estimates 2011-12 and Budget Estimates 2012-13 submitted to the Ministry and ratified the same.

ITEM NO.6: Ratification of grant-in-aid released to organizations under CSS & Plan Schemes.

- (i) The Board noted the financial position and requested the Ministry to consider enhanced allocation in the Revised Estimates for 2011-12.
- (ii) The Board ratified the Minutes of the Grants Sub Committee held on 21.4.2011, 7.7.2011, 8.10.2011 and others as given in the Annexures. The Board resolved to conduct the Grants Sub-Committee Meetings every month to process the applications received. The Board also resolved that if any inspection report is received from one Govt. Department, it can be considered unless there is a contrary report from any other Govt. Department.
- (iii) The Board ratified the list of AWOs to whom grants-in-aid were sanctioned and released to organizations under CSS & Plan schemes during 2011-12 as given in the Annexures. The Board also resolved that State Government should be requested to fund AWOs in a participatory programme for the maintenance of animals in the shelters.
- (iv) The Board did not agree to the suggestion for giving honorarium to the State Government agencies for carrying out inspection as such an action cannot be taken without the approval of the concerned State Governments.
- (v) The Board approved grant of Recognition to two AWOs, and agreed that financial assistance would be released under Plan scheme only after completion of three years from registration under Societies Act etc.
- (vi) The Board ratified the decision to de-recognise the organization Animal Welfare Society, Hyderabad.

ITEM NO.7: Consideration of matter relating to Legal Jurisdiction with respect to AWOs, to be in Chennai.

All the Members of the Board unanimously felt that legal jurisdiction with respect to AWOs should be in Chennai, i.e. that the letter conveying recognition to AWOs should clearly specify that jurisdiction for the initiation of legal cases shall vest in the Courts at Chennai.

ITEM NO.8: Consideration of the matter regarding purchase of Ambulance Vehicle other than the model approved by Board, out of grant released to Shri Krishna Gaushala Smithi, Dist. Pali (RJ070/1998) and Humane Animal Society, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN175/2008).

The Board approved the matter of purchase of ambulance vehicles by these AWOs other than the model sanctioned by the Board since the vehicles purchased are sound.

ITEM NO.9: Consideration of matter relating to latest status report of Utilisation Certificate under Regular Grant and CSS.

The Board decided that State wise list of AWOs whose UCs are pending will be prepared and forwarded to the Members/Co-opted Members and SAWBs for collection of UCs.

ITEM NO.10: Consideration of matter regarding post of Secretary in AWBI.

The Board requested the Ministry to expeditiously fill the post of Secretary, AWBI, as already 17 months have passed after the ex-Secretary was relieved from the Board. The Board appreciated the commitment of Shri S. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Secretary and commended him for shouldering the responsibilities of Secretary, AWBI, and Accounts Officer, in addition to his post of Assistant Secretary.

ITEM NO.11: Consideration of matter regarding disbursement of arrears of VI Pay Commission to AWBI staff, and filling of additional posts consequent to the report of SIU, Ministry of Finance

The Board strongly recommended that the Ministry implement the SIU report immediately and sanction the additional posts to the Board at the earliest. The Board also agreed that the Ministry should take into account the recommendations of the SIU regarding higher scales of pay than what the Board had granted to the staff, and recommended release of the second installment arrears of the VIth Pay Commission immediately to Board employees.

ITEM NO.12: Consideration of matter relating to conducting of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer Training Programme at Chennai.

The Board decided to carry on the Training Programme at NIAW itself. The Board also reiterated that HAWOs should be informed that they do not have power to take the law in to their own hands.

ITEM NO.13: Consideration of matter relating to important pending court cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts

The Board reviewed the same. The Board also decided to issue advertisements about the notification of the Govt. of India prohibiting the use of bulls, i.e. their exhibition and training as Performing Animals, and agreed that advisories will be issued to the concerned District Collectors of the districts where Jallikattu and other related events take place.

ITEM NO.14: Brief on action taken on complaints/information received regarding cruelty to animals.

The Board agreed that the law enforcement agencies for ensuring and enforcing penalties in the case of infractions of animal protection laws, are the police, courts, etc. Further, that the State Governments and law enforcement agencies should ensure that violations of the PCA Act, and perpetration of cruelty to animals are addressed strongly and effectively by them.

The Board members also resolved that in the case of cruelty complaints received, letters sent to the District Collectors and other concerned Officials should be marked to the complainant as well, with a request to liaise with the concerned departments about the action taken in the said regard, and inform the Board about the follow up action. The Board also decided that Humane Education Awareness Programmes needs to be undertaken on a large scale to bring about awareness regarding animal protection laws and animal rights, and to effectively prevent/stop cruelty meted out to animals. The Board decided that PETA shall be approached for co-ordination in this regard and short slot films for being shown on Television, on Gaushalas, ABC for dogs, other general awareness and co-existence with animals, adoption of Indian dogs, etc. prepared together with PETA. It was also decided that other innovative programmes such as photo contest programmes, poster making, etc. be embarked upon, to ensure humane education and awareness. The Board also decided that more legal members need to be co-opted to handle the growing number of complaints regarding cruelty to animals.

ITEM NO.15: Conducting of various training programmes at National Institute of Animal Welfare

The Board noted the matter.

ITEM NO.16: Consideration of matter relating to proposal of the Ministry for routing financial assistance under the existing schemes to the Animal Welfare Organisations through State Animal Welfare Board from next financial year, and undue delay in receipt of grants from Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.

The Board resolved to organize a workshop/seminar to exhort the State Governments to create and / or make the State Animal Welfare Boards and SPCAs effective. It was emphasized that those SAWBs which are not formed and SPCAs not established need to be done at the earliest, so that animal welfare issues at the ground level can be addressed by the SAWBs and SPCAs. It was also agreed that the Ministry needs to be requested to co-ordinate the same, and ensure participation by all States. The Board also resolved that the list of all AWOs who are being provided financial assistance should be circulated to all SAWBs of the concerned State Governments, requesting them to monitor the work of AWOs and forward reports to the Board.

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.1 : Consideration of the matter relating to celebration of Golden Jubilee on completion of 50 years of AWBI

Celebration of completion of 50 years of AWBI

The Board decided to celebrate the completion of 50 years of AWBI in the year 2012 by marking the occasion with a Stamp release, National level Seminars, State level Seminars, prizes for deserving animal welfare activists and AWOs and various connected functions. All the Members of the Board unanimously felt that Prime Minister should also be invited for the celebration and that he should also be advised about issues pertaining to the Board.

It was also decided that a Sub-Committee consisting of Shri Rajeev Gupta, Smt Amala Akkineni, Smt Anjali Sharma, Smt.Jasjit Purewal , Brig Chouhan, Dr.Asgar Samoon and Shri Doulat Jain along with the Director, AW, and headed by the Vice-Chairman, AWBI, prepare guidelines for the celebrations and a proposal seeking separate budget from the Ministry be also prepared. The Chairman requested the Members to give their ideas for celebration of 50 years of service to the animal welfare, so that the matter could be taken up with the Ministry immediately.

The Board authorized Chairman, AWBI to send a letter to the Hon'ble Minister regarding the matter, and agreed that the Ministry be requested to allocate funds for the same. It was also agreed that all Members of the Board take part in the Golden Jubilee Celebration.

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.2.: Consideration of matter relating to Humane Castration of male calves in Gaushalas.

The Board endorsed the recommendation regarding humane physical castration procedures in cattle forwarded by PETA and resolved that an advisory shall be sent to all Gaushalas that all male calves be humanely castrated.

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.3: Considering the matter relating to organizing a technical session for ABC protocol for puppies.

The Board considered the matter. Vice-Chairman briefed the Board about Dr.Young having trained vets for ABC on pups more than a decade back. The advantages of ABC on pups are many with a very few negative points. The negative points can be set right by having well experienced and qualified veterinarians doing the ABC operations on pups and using gas anesthesia (inhalant) through experienced and qualified personnel. It was agreed that the ideal time for ABC operations on male pups will be before six months and for female pups, at least four months after birth.

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.4: Considering the matter relating to conferring of Posthumous Prani Mitra Award to Late Shri Nadeem Saiyed of Ahmedabad

The Board approved the grant of Prani Mitra Award in respect of Late Shri Nadeem Saiyed, Gujarat, for working for the cause of animal welfare.

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.5 : Considering the matter relating to enactment of Animal Welfare Act, 2011

The members unanimously felt that the Board has the mandate as per the present PCA Act to advise the Government to bring an effective Animal Welfare Law. The Board resolved that it shall work towards ensuring that the law framed by the Board, and submitted to the Ministry, and posted on its website in February, 2011, and then finalized by the Board and submitted to the Ministry again, be enacted as law. It was also agreed that the Ministry shall be requested to provide the views of the other Ministries on the version of the Draft Animal Welfare Bill, 2011, circulated among them, to decide whether the same be altered / finalized with the incorporation of the inputs of the AWBI in the same ; or whether a recommendation to withdraw the said version of the Bill be issued on account of the same being found to be completely unacceptable.

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO.6.: Consideration of matter relating to Notification of Dog Breeding, Marketing and Sale Rules, Aquarium Fish Breeding and Marketing Rules, and Pet Shop Rules, 2010

Upon being questioned by the Board, the Ministry representative informed the Board that the draft Rules have been forwarded to the Ministry of Law for further necessary action.

In addition to the above, the Board discussed about the following matters and resolved as under: -

- 1) The Members of the Board unanimously resolved that the subject of Animal Welfare should be transferred to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture from the present Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- 2) The Board resolved that the Ministry should be requested to include the Co-opted Members authorized by the Board for joining the inspection teams of State Govt Agencies, for inspecting AWOs.
- 3) The Board also suggested that Hon'ble Minister of State, I/C, MoEF shall be approached to update the issues faced by the Board.

- 4) The Board resolved that a letter be sent to the State Animal Husbandry Department to forward the census of all animals, including street/stray dogs, and stray cattle to the Board.
- 5) The Board directed that the proposals received from AWOs for grant shall be processed within 15 days of receipt of the same. Details relating to release of grants will also be updated on the website.
- 6) Shri Anjani Kumar, Director, AWD, MoEF suggested that AWOs should send Annual Report regularly, which should be monitored by AWBI. It was suggested that legal action can be taken against AWOs, who are not submitting Utilisation Certificates even after 18 months of receipt of grant. Further, that a review has to be undertaken of NGOs that are not interacting with AWBI, and that they should be asked to submit the Annual Report and Accounts to the Board since they are recognized by the Board. If no response is received from the AWOs, then the Board should take action to de-recognise them. It was also pointed out that all fine amounts should come to AWBI. The status of applications are to be updated on the Website and the citizens charter should be put on the Website of AWBI. The Board authorized Chairman to write to Delhi Govt. (Hon'ble Chief Minister) to make Delhi SPCA give the fine amounts collected by them to the Board, and that a copy of the letter should be marked to the Lt.Governor of Delhi.
- 7) The Board resolved that the Ministry will be requested for Budget for E governance.

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