



सत्यमेव जयते



## ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India

### भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

(पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) Dr. R. M. KHARB, AVSM  
CHAIRMAN

15<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

*Dear Sh. Uday Prakash Singh ji,*

#### **Sub: Guidelines for Allowing Pet Dogs in the Public Parks – reg.**

These Guidelines are being issued in light of the directions contained in the order dated 12.11.2014 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in WP(C) No.7731/2014.

The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory body established in terms of Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and these guidelines are being issued in pursuance of Section 9 (k) of the said Act.

In furtherance of the spirit of co-existence and compassion for all living creatures endorsed by the Constitution of India, and particularly by Articles 51A(g) and 51A(h) thereof, and the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, particularly Sections 3 and 11, the scope of which has been substantially widened by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its judgment dated 7th May, 2014, passed in the matter titled 'Animal Welfare Board of India Versus A. Nagaraja and Others', being Civil Appeal No. 5387 of 2014, the relevant portion of which is enclosed herewith, the Board states as follows :

1. The number of people keeping dogs as companions is increasing every year. Most dog owners live in apartments where there is no private space to exercise their dogs. Walking them on pavement is difficult because of the flow of pedestrian traffic and because the pavements are narrow. Moreover, pedestrians often feel scared to come into close proximity with dogs. Therefore, it is most prudent that dogs be taken to parks to exercise them. Needless to state, dogs that are not properly exercised can turn aggressive, and it is also illegal to deny them the exercise they require.
2. The entry of pet dogs into parks, and their being exercised in them, will not therefore be banned if the dogs are duly leashed and being walked by adults. As such all current boards which say "Dogs / pets are strictly prohibited in the park", or other similar boards, ought therefore to be removed. Instead, timings may be specified, for the morning and evening hours, when dog owners can walk their dogs in the parks. The timings specified should be reasonable, and reasonably long, to allow all dog owning residents to walk their dogs. These timings can be changed according to the season. On the new board to be affixed at the park it can be stated that all dog owners must bring scoops and pick up the excreta of their dog and deposit it in a garbage can provided for the purpose.
3. Pets must be leashed on a leash no longer than six feet in length as leashing of pets in public places assures passersby that they are safe and they are more likely to be comfortable when walking in the vicinity of a dog on a leash. While pet owners must leash their pet dogs in all common areas, authorities in charge of the parks cannot insist on the use of muzzles. However, all dog owners are advised to assess the nature of their own dogs, and voluntarily muzzle their dogs if they feel the same is required as additional safeguard.

.....2

4. The DDA and all other local /administrative authorities that own and manage parks should withdraw the bans / prohibition ordered vis-a-vis pet dogs being exercised in parks. All signboards to the said effect, and all notings on websites or elsewhere, must be removed at the earliest. All RWAs should be required to do the same. Only the restrictions as specified in point number 2 above, may be provided for.

All over the world such public spaces are common grounds for both people and their companion animals. We must strive to co-exist and deal compassionately with our animal friends.

*With regards,*

**Shri Uday Pratap Singh, I.A.S,**  
**Vice Chairman,**  
**Delhi Development Authority,**  
**Delhi.**  
**Fax: 011-24623968**  
**Email: [vcdda@dda.org.in](mailto:vcdda@dda.org.in)**

*[Signature]*  
**Yours sincerely,**  
**Maj.Gen.(Dr.) R.M. Kharb, AVSM (Retd.)**  
**Chairman, AWBI**