



Animal Welfare Board of India

(Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

13/1, Third Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai - 600

041.

PostBoxNo.8672Email: awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in,

animalwelfareboard@gmail.com [website:www.awbi.org](http://www.awbi.org),

Phone:044-24571025, 24571024, Fax: 044-24571016.

18-11-2015

PRESS RELEASE

ABC (DOGS) RULES, 2001 TO BE IMPLEMENTED : **SUPREME COURT**

Chennai: The Supreme Court of India has passed a very good interim order in the stray dogs matters listed before it today, applicable to all States and Union territories. Several petitions were listed before a bench presided by Justice Dipak Misra, & tagged with the lead case filed by the Animal Welfare Board of India in 2009. Vide their order passed today, the judges have directed all local authorities, gram panchayats, and other civic bodies in all States and Union territories to strictly follow the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, & the provisions of the Act itself; and no indiscriminate killing of dogs is allowed. The States and Civic Bodies have to set up adequate infrastructure for implementing the animal birth control programme for stray dogs, and fund it in the manner provided for by the Rules. Since implementation will principally be through animal welfare organisations, and the Indian Constitution and law mandate compassion and absence of cruelty, AWBI guidance and opinion is to be provided. These Rules provide that stray dogs can only be sterilized and immunized, and have then to be returned back to the very location that they were picked up from, as provided for by Rule 7(6), once they recover after the animal birth control surgery. Only with respect to irretrievably ill or mortally wounded dogs, humane euthanasia, i.e. mercy killing in the manner prescribed in Rule 9 is to be resorted to by vets (and none else). For dogs suspected to be rabid, the procedure in Rule 10 is to be followed, i.e. any such dog is to be isolated because if a dog is indeed rabid, it dies a natural death within a few days.

The principal issue before the Supreme Court is whether municipal laws framed by States, which allow unbridled destruction of stray dogs are to be upheld ; or whether the Central law, i.e. the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act providing for animal birth control of stray canines in the manner prescribed, and disallowing their killing or dislocation, are to be upheld. The Supreme Court has clearly expressed a prima facie view that the Central law, i.e. the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, have to be followed.

It is the contention of the AWBI and animal welfare organisations that the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, if implemented in letter and spirit, are the only effective method of reducing man-dog conflict. Not only can they curb street dog population, they can also effectively reduce incidences of dog bites and human rabies, while ensuring that street dogs are treated in a humane manner. There is a rational and a scientific basis behind the requirement in the Rules that dogs have to be returned back to exactly the same location that they were picked up from after sterilisation and immunization. Dogs, being territorial in nature, tend to fight off other newer dogs from entering into the territories occupied by them. If they are sterilised and immunized in accordance with the Rules, and returned back to the location that they were picked up from, they stop breeding and their population starts stabilizing. If, on the other hand, dogs are dumped in other areas after being sterilized, new dogs keep entering the vacuum created.

The Supreme Court has directed that its order will be sent to all States and Union Territories for implementation. The final hearing will take place on 9th March, 2016, and before that, all States and Union territories and the Animal Welfare Board of India and all parties in these cases, have to file their affidavits of compliance with the order passed today.




ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA