



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

(Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)
(पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

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

D.O. No. 101-2007-COAWBI

27 Jan, 2010

Dear Anjali ji,

**Subject: The order passed by Hon'ble Justice V.K. Jain on 18.12.2009, in the
stray dog feeding matters**

The Board has deliberated upon the order passed by the Hon'ble Court. Known facets of dog behavior and the views of experts have been taken into account before arriving at certain guidelines (enclosed) that we want to issue to persons who feed stray dogs, and to Animal Welfare Organizations. A copy of this letter is therefore being marked to the lawyer representing the petitioners. Kindly also share these guidelines with the lawyers representing other parties, such as the Delhi police, M.C.D., etc. We shall be circulating these among the Animal Welfare Organizations registered with us. They shall also be shared with the Residents' Welfare Associations and similar bodies.

We trust that eventually, the objective that we are seeking to achieve, of reducing stray dog population, and controlling the spread of rabies, shall be achieved with minimum inconvenience to residents.

With regards,

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

Mrs. Anjali Sharma, Advocate
Chamber No. 334
Delhi High Court
New Delhi-110003

Copy to:
Mr. Kanchan Singh,
Advocate for petitioners
And
Advocates representing the other parties in these matters



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GUIDELINES FOR FEEDING STRAY DOGS IN RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER LOCALITIES

Feeding of stray dogs may lead to some inconvenience for residents, especially those residents who do not like dogs. However, the purpose sought to be achieved through feeding, of confining dogs to the localities they inhabit to make sterilization and yearly vaccination possible, and thereby bring down stray dog population and control rabies, is far more important, and for the larger public good.

The Animal Welfare Board of India is of the view that when earmarking spots / sites for the feeding of stray dogs, the following considerations must be kept in mind :

- (i) Community dogs must be fed and tended to at places which are not frequented, or less frequented, and sparingly used by the general public and residents. This will minimize inconvenience to both, humans, and the dogs themselves, since it has been noticed that these dogs, especially when possessed of food, tend to avoid crowded places and places where noise levels are high. By their intrinsic nature they tend to retreat with eatables to secluded spots away from such places. Avoid areas therefore, that are immediately adjacent to spots in which the public / residents congregate in large numbers.
- (ii) Dogs are territorial by nature and cannot all be herded into one spot for the purpose of feeding them. They must not therefore be sought to be so herded. (Needless to state, seeking to do so will lead to dog fights, probably dog bites, and hence tremendous inconvenience for residents.)
- (iii) Public causeways, public streets, pedestrian paths, and foot paths which are regularly used by public and residents for commuting are to be avoided while feeding community dogs. However, if public land is available adjacent to the above the feeding should be done on the same.
- (iv) The common / public area immediately abounding the entrance to flats/houses must be avoided for feeding dogs, except where the residents have no objection to the same. Any person having compassion for the stray dogs may permit them to be fed or feed them at his/her private entrance / porch / driveway / of his/her house or any other place not shared with other residents.
- (v) Effort should be made, where service lanes are existent, to feed the dogs on these, as service lanes are not frequently used for ingress and egress. Areas adjacent to the boundary walls of the houses which are not used for passage or do not have any

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exit/entry points should also be used for feeding. Likewise, vacant lands may be used for this purpose.

- (vi) Feeding ought, as far as possible, be undertaken at a time when the density of human population tends to be minimal. Such time may vary in every locality, and the local volunteers, in consultation with the notified A.W.O. working in that area may set such timings and inform the Board of the same. (It is clarified that the above timing is restricted, and applies only to feeding. It does not, and should not extend to the wider task of tending to community dogs, which includes vaccinations, inoculations, sterilizations, treatment of ill and ailing dogs.)
- (vii) Feeding should not be undertaken more than twice daily (except for dogs who are sick and ailing and need special attention or under the advice of the veterinary doctor). Dogs which, for unavoidable reasons, have not been fed at the time earmarked for the same, must be fed if spotted, with minimum inconvenience to the general public, since hungry dogs tend to venture close to houses/eateries in search of food, which people may not like.
- (viii) Feeding must, without exception, be undertaken in the most hygienic manner. Clean bowls for both food and water must be used. It must be ensured that no bowls, eatables and packets are left behind after feeding is over. No littering must be caused. Water bowls are placed for regular and recurring thirst of the dogs must be cleaned and replaced with fresh and clean water at regular intervals.

The Board is of the view that careful adherence to these guidelines will help in achieving the objective stated above, while causing minimum inconvenience to the general public.
