



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

No.9-16/2019-20/PCA

Date: 11.03.2020

CIRCULAR

To

The Chief Secretary of all States/UTs.

Sir/Madam,

Subject: Request to not to leave the animals or inflict cruelty due to the COVID19 – reg

With reference to the above cited subject, it is brought to the notice of the Board that the animal owners are leaving their animals to stray without proper food, water or shelter due to the spread of COVID19.

2. In this regard, WHO has clarified that Dogs and Cats are not involved in spreading infection in the current episode of corona virus infection. The circular issued by WHO is enclosed for ready references.

3. Further, it is stated that cruelty to animals is an offense under Section 3, Section 11(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and its Rules. It is also violation of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Board has already issued an advisory to all the State Governments/UTs to see that the stray animals need to be taken care by the local bodies as it is their responsibility. A copy of the letter dated 12th July, 2018 is enclosed for your reference.

4. In view of the above, it is requested to kindly issue a circular to all concerned authorities to create awareness amongst the public that animals which were taken care by them may not be left for straying and also not to inflict unnecessary pain or suffering to animals because of the COVID19. The law enforcement authorities may also be directed to see that the animals are not subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering as it attracts the penalty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and violation of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

A copy of the circular issued may kindly be forwarded to the Board for information and further action.

Kindly treat this as most urgent.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. O.P. Chaudhary)
Chairman

13.3.20

Encl.: as above.