

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. 9-4/2020-21/PCA

Date: 25.04.2020

CIRCULAR

To

The Chief Secretary of all States/ UTs

The Director General of Police of all States/ UTs

Sir/ Madam,

Subject: Advisory on feeding the birds and animals during COVID 19 - Regarding.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has issued directions in order dated 21.04.2020 in Writ Petition (Civil) No..... Dairy No. 10856/2020 in the matter of Sangeeta Dogra and Central Zoo Authority of India for feeding the animals and birds during the Covid-19 lockdown period to extend its support for Human-Animal Co-existence while directing that the Writ Petition to be considered as representation.

1. While considering the representation of the petitioner, it is further to clarify that during feeding of Pet or Street Animals, personal hygiene shall be maintained by all the feeders. The feeder should also identify the place and time. The pets and stray should be fed at the said restricted area only on the specified time. The area for the feed of animals preferably should be away from the public movement.

2. The feeder should co-operate with Local authorities implementing the Government of India/ State Government guidelines for lock down and maintaining Law & Order. Provide them the detail of individual(s) in writing to Local police Station and your beat constable take receiving with your feeding time schedule and the same be also given to the Resident Welfare Associations(RWA) society heads.

3. The norms of Waste Management, after feeding of animals should be followed preferably by destroying the feeding tray and newspapers, if any. The mask and gloves need to be destroyed of disinfected.

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For Residents

1. The Residents should also be made aware to notify not to litter leftover food and may be distributed in one corner where animals can eat with respect and keeping waste management in place. The staff of the local bodies will also be responsible to minimize the fear of spreading of pandemics from the stray and pet animals.

2. The Resident and Local Authorities are requested to co-operate with Animal feeders with full protection and respect as they are offering animals feed and are obeying their fundamental Duties as per Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution as read below:

Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution says that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and wildlife.

3. It may also be noted that pets/stray animals do no spread COVID-19. Anyone who are abandons or harass animals out of fear of spreading of COVID will be liable to be prosecuted under Section 11(1) of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, where Police is fully entitled to take cognizance under this section as deem fit.

4. The Animal Welfare Board of India is receiving number of cruelty cases during the lock down period against the animals including pet animals. The Board has also noticed that the animals are brutally beaten with rods/ hard objected etc. Such kind of inhuman behaviour of the people or animal owner is punishable offence and the Police Department is requested to immediately act on the matter when reported by any person, feeder and animal welfare activists.

Kindly treat this as most urgent.

Yours Sincerely,

(Dr. O.P Chaudhary)^{25.4}, 20 Chairman

Encl: as above.

Copy to: for information and further necessary action.

- 1) The Director, Animal Husbandry Department of all States/UTs
- 2) The District Collector of all States and UTs
- 3) Sangeeta Dogra, Petitioner of the case.