OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Prevention of cruelty to animals – Guidelines reg.

It has been brought to the notice of this Department that a number of Associations have been engaging in dealing with the problem of stray animals in their areas on their own or through security guards appointed by them. It has also been reported that apart from beating animals etc. some of the associations have also been taking recourse to intimidating residents who may be feeding/tending some of the stray animals.

2. Section 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to animals Act, 1960 as amended from time to time, provides that if any person beats, kicks, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures or otherwise treats any animals so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering, he shall be punishable with fine and/or imprisonment. In terms of the provisions of the Act, therefore, the Govt. servant who indulges in act of cruelty to animals will be making himself liable for action under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Besides, punishment under the Act, he would also make himself liable for action under CCS (Conduct) Rules for conduct unbecoming of a Govt. servant.

3. It may be noted that for dealing with the problem of stray animals, there are designated agencies in Govt/local self-government organizations etc. Such Organisations regularly undertake inoculations, sterilization of female animals etc. Recognised Associations in Govt. colonies may approach such Institutions for redressal of their grievances. Un-recognised associations may also approach such bodies with their individual/collective grievances, but they shall refrain from pretending to represent the residents in general. Where there is no recognized association, grievances, if any, of the residents may be taken up with the Institutions through the AWO/Office of the CWO. However, all the problems of stray animals have to be handled within the institutional framework available and no association, recognized or unrecognized, shall take recourse to action on their own, either themselves or through any person employed by them like security guards etc.
4. While residents and Associations are free to address institutional agencies for redressal of grievances in this matter, no resident/association will interfere with the freedom of other residents in tending animals etc. Intimidation, in any form, is a criminal offence. Apart from action under appropriate criminal law, such persons will render themselves liable for action under the CCS Conduct Rules.

(M.S. Nagra)
Under Secretary (Welfare)
Tel No: 2464676

Copy to all Joint Secretaries (Administration) in all the Ministries/Depts. of Govt. of India. The provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the guidelines provided in the Circular may please be brought to the notice of all employees in your Department.

[Signatures and names]

Dept. of Posts
Shri P. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary

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