October 16, 2013.

Dear Friends,

Reg. The reported effort on the part of Noida RWA to unlawfully deal with community dogs (popularly referred to as 'stray dogs') and deploying security or other staff to beat and drive them away, often causing grievous injuries and even death.

We have received a communication from Chairman of Animal Welfare Board of India (Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India), on the above subject, pointing out that they have been receiving complaints from concerned residents that some Noida RWAs, together with some misguided residents, often deploy security and other staff including safari constables, to brutally beat stray dogs in a bid to drive them away. It has further been mentioned in the communication that "this results in grievous injuries and even death of community dogs. Further, those compassionate persons who try to tend to feed these animals in the manner upheld by the Courts, and deal with them lawfully, and try to promote co-existence, are harassed and pressured to stop doing so."

We do hope that our RWAs members have not been indulging in or encouraging such undesirable activities. In case any instance of such an activity has come to your notice, the same may be inquired into and strict preventive action may be taken in this regard.

The chairpersons, Animal Welfare Board of India has advised us to issue a circular to all our members drawing attention to the following specific points:

1) As per India law, stray dogs cannot be beaten or driven away, whether from residential or other complexes, or even from public places such as parks, etc. They can only be sterilized in the manner envisaged in the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001, vaccinated, and then returned back to their original locations. For the aforesaid sterilization program that the law mandates shall be followed, dogs have to be returned back to their original habitat after sterilization and immunization. The rationale behind the same is that dogs, being territories; and in this manner, the dog population in each territory stabilizes and reduces.
Letter dated 16th December 2013: Noida Federation instructions to RWAs regarding street dogs and the lawful manner of dealing with street dogs and those who tend to them

Shared via www.jaagruti.org