

Implementation of Animal Birth Control Dog Rules (2001) by Corporation of Chennai

Introduction:

Rabies is a 100% fatal disease which spreads to human beings through the bite of a rabid dog. In the man the disease is called hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days on the onset of the symptoms. Many complaints are received from the public, that the dogs chase and bite them during early hours and during late hours of the day. In order to prevent the occurrence of this dreadful disease and to contain the stray dogs nuisance, Corporation of Chennai has established the Basin Bridge Road Lethal Chamber (B.R.L.C) over 75 years ago with a concept of eradication of Stray dogs.

ROLE OF CHENNAI CORPORATION IN ERADICATION OF STRAY DOGS

Initially the Corporation of Chennai was involved in stray dog catching by engaging private dog catchers and later the Corporation workers were trained in stray dog catching operations and they were also paid incentives to promote more numbers of dog catching. The method of dog catching is lasso method using smooth cotton rope with a slip knot.

The captured dogs are brought to the Basin Bridge Lethal Chamber

and they were detained for 3 days for owner's claim. During their detention the dogs are fed and watered. The dogs claimed by their owners were released on payment of licence fee and the remaining unclaimed dogs were electrocuted. Initially the electrocution was done by passing high voltage current to an iron cage where the dogs are locked. This operation was very cruel and unsafe.

In the year 1930 the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, London donated an electrocution chamber and the same was in operation till 1996.

The methodology of dog catching operations, and the design of dog vans used by the Corporation of Chennai over decades have only been presently recommended by the Government of India, Animal Birth Control (Dog Rules 2001) and the same has been recommended to be followed throughout the country.

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAMME

Since the year October 1996 the Corporation of Chennai with the participation of Non-Governmental Organisation introduced the Animal Birth Control Programme (Sterilization) first of its kind for the stray dogs even prior to the recommendation of the Government of India Animal Birth

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Control (Dog Rules 2001). Indiscriminate killing of stray dogs was considered to be a cruel practice and most unscientific way of approach.

The stray dogs are caught on specific complaints received from the public by Corporation of Chennai and they are handed over to Non-Governmental Organizations like Blue Cross of India, Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and People for Animals for Sterilization. After post operative care and immunization against rabies, the dogs are released by the Non-Governmental Organizations in the same area from where they were picked up after making necessary ear clipping as identification marks. The electrocution of dogs has been totally suspended since the year 1996. Monthly on an average 1000 dogs are caught and handed over to the above said Non-Governmental Organization for Animal Birth Control Operation. Totally there are 4 dog catching vehicles deployed for this purpose. Each vehicle comprises of 3 trained dog catchers and one representative of the Animal Welfare Organization to note down the areas of stray dogs captured.

Facilities extended to Non-Governmental Organizations by Corporation of Chennai

The Basin Bridge Lethal Chamber has been converted to Animal Birth

Control Centre. A well-equipped Air-Conditioned Operation Theatre with 8 Nos. of kennels and an Office room have been newly constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.20.00 lakhs and it is being used by the N.G.O's "People for Animals". Medicines like Anti-Rabies Vaccines, ThioPentone Sodium Injections, Water supply and Electricity Charges are provided for the said N.G.O. A sum of Rs.1.20 lakhs is being reimbursed to People for Animals annually towards dog feeding charges for the stray dogs at the rate of Rs.5/- per dog/day for 5 days during post operative care.

A portion of dysfunct cattle depot at Choolai, Division-102, Zone-VII has been provided to People for Animals for treating the sick dogs prior to sterilization operations and for other animal welfare activities.

Similarly 10 kennels and an Air-Conditioned Operation theatre at Lloyds Road, Division-82, Zone-VI have been provided to Blue Cross of India for Animal Birth Control Programme.

Due to the stern action taken by the Corporation of Chennai to contain stray dog nuisance and the steps taken to strictly adhere to the Government of India Animal Birth Control (Dog Rules 2001) even before its recommendations, the rabies death in human beings is found to be

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drastically reduced. In the year 1996, the human death due to rabies was 120 which has drastically come down to 5 in the year 2004.

Statement showing the Nos. of stray dogs caught and handed over to N.G.O's for ABC programme

Year	No.of dogs Caught	Release to owners	Handed over to Blue Cross of India	Handed over to SPCA	Handed over to People for Animals
2000-01	11196	198	3508	580	6910
2001-02	9899	151	3830	933	4985
2002-03	10197	135	3604	576	5882
2003-04	13495	214	4978	591	7676
2004-05	13663	194	5510	651	7308
2005-06	13069	96	5479	626	6868
2006-07	14326	91	5833	503	7899
2007-08	18897	137	7585	581	10594