

**The nuisance caused by keeping cattle in Chennai city and the action taken
by Corporation of Chennai to contain them:-**

Introduction: -

Chennai City is now grown to a thickly populated Metropolitan City with an estimated population of 49.00 Lakhs. In the most urban areas like Chennai City, Cattle are kept by their owners in the most unsatisfactory and unhygienic conditions. Public places like street margins, roads, road margins, pavements, parks, play grounds and other common places are frequently encroached upon for the keeping of animals. The animals are also allowed to stray on the public roads and streets, resulting in frequent traffic accidents and health hazards and posing danger to the pedestrians, especially aged and school going children, vehicles and to the general public. The space available for rearing cattle is dwindling and today most of the cattle in the city are kept in houses which are inadequate even for human occupation. Such misuse of public places and indiscriminate use of even dwelling houses as cattle yards renders living uncomfortable and unhealthy. In a city like Chennai there is also shortage of grazing land and water which make the animals also to suffer. The dung and other

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animal waste produced by keeping cattle choke the sewer drains and leads to sewer obstructions which aggregate during monsoon and cause health hazards. Such unclean environment become a vertible breeding grounds for mosquitoes and spread disease like malaria and dengue, thus endangering the public health.

**ROLE OF CORPORATION OF CHENNAI IN CONTAINING CATTLE
NUISANCE:-**

Earlier during the year 1985 the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority came out with a proposal to relocate the cattle from Chennai City to Madhavaram which did not materialise due to the fact that the public and Cooperative agencies for procurement and distribution of milk in the city could meet only a small portion of the city's demand. But now the situation has changed. The availability of milk is more than the demand due to participation of various private diaries besides Aavin.

With a view to control and regulate the keeping of animals and birds in urban areas and to make the urban areas clean, healthy and safe, the Government enacted the "**Tamil Nadu Keeping of**

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Animals and Birds in urban Areas (Control and Regulation)Act 1997". This Act came into effect during the year 1997. As per sec.3 of the said Act, the notified animals are cattle, Buffaloes and pigs. and as per sec.8 of the said Act, except divisions 1, 2, 62, 63, 64, 65, 128, 129, 153, 154 and 155, the other areas are prohibited for keeping these notified animals. Wide publicity was given to the public and a period of six months time was also given to the cattle owners to remove their cattle from the prohibited areas of Chennai City. On the representation made by the cattle owners, the time given for shifting was also extended on many occasions.

The Corporation of Chennai during the year 1995 procured 3 Nos. of specially designed lorries with automatic lifting facilities for lifting the stray cattle and conducted raids against stray cattle in all the Zones and later 6 new vehicles were purchased during the year 1998. The raided animals were released to their owners on payment of Rs.200/-as penalty per cattle per day of detention. In spite of the action taken by Corporation of Chennai the cattle menace continued to exist in the city.

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During the year 2003 it was decided to strictly implement the Tamil Nadu keeping of Animals and Birds in urban areas (Control and Regulation) act 1997. The cattle owners were given 3 months notice to shift their animals outside the city, and it was decided that the raided cattle from the prohibited areas from 01.08.2003 will be auctioned as per sec.10 of the said act. Since there were much protest from the cattle owners, the auctioning of animals were stopped and more over to avoid the auctioned animals to be taken for slaughter, it was decided to handover the stray cattle to the Blue Cross of India a recognized animal welfare organization for further maintenance.

Meanwhile the Chennai Milk Vendors Association filed a writ in the High Court challenging the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Keeping of Animals and Birds in urban areas (Control & Regulations) Act 1997 and since there was no stay on the seizure of stray cattle, Corporation of Chennai intensified the raids on stray cattle in all the zones and handed over the animals to Blue Cross of India for further maintenance instead of releasing the animals to their owners. More than 2500 animals were thus caught and handed over

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to Blue Cross of India.

At present after the pronouncement of the final orders dated 1.6.2004 from the High Court, the stray cattle caught are impounded in the two cattle pounds maintained by Corporation of Chennai and released to their owners on condition that they will not leave their animals to stray on the roads. The fine collected per animal is Rs.1,250/- being the 1/4th of the cost of the animal and feeding & maintenance charges at the rate of Rs.100/- per day per cattle, as stipulated in the rules of the Tamil Nadu Keeping of Animals and Birds in urban areas (Control & Regulations) Act 1997. Impounded animals unclaimed for more than three days are handed over to Blue Cross of India for further maintenance. If any owner of the animal commits the offence of letting his animal to stray and if impounded for third time such animals are not released, they will be handed over to Blue Cross of India.

Thus due to the intensive stray cattle raids conducted by Corporation of Chennai during day and night hours and due to strict

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enforcement of the said act, the stray cattle nuisance has drastically reduced in Chennai City. Most of the cattle owners have shifted their animals away from Chennai city out of fear of the strict enforcement of the said act. Moreover the present availability of milk in Chennai city is more than the demand. The animal husbandary department on the request of chennai corporation has closed down their artificial insemination centres in the city.,In order to discourage keeping of cattle in city.Overall the public at large welcome the continued action taken by Corporation of Chennai in removing the cattle from chennai corporation limits.

During the 16th Live Stock Census conducted in the year 1997, the total Census of White Cattle & Buffalo was 53,723 in Chennai city. Due to the strict implementation of the said Act and intensive raids against stray cattle, the census of cattle population in Chennai city has drastically come down to 5745 as per the 17th Quinquennial Live Stock Census conducted by Arivoli Iyakkam Corporation of Chennai in the month of October 2004.

Statement showing the Particulars of Stray Cattle Raid.

Year	No. of Stray Cattle Caught	Animals handed over to Blue Cross of India.	Impounding Charges collected (in Rs.)
2000-01	3203	159	19,64,600/-
2001-02	2388	80	15,09,600/-
2002-2003	2782	101	17,11,000/-
2003-04	3231	2009	6,34,600/-
2004-05	1375	192	17,95,200/-
2005-06	1698	323	22,24,800/-
2006-07	1137	63	17,34,800/-
2007-08	1359	63	20,34,550/-