

COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME

For Management of Stray Dogs in the Union Territory of
Chandigarh, 2012.



Keep your City free of Rabies.

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Come, join hands to make your city free of rabies...

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CHANDIGARH
(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH)**

**Comprehensive Scheme for management of Stray Dogs
in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, 2012.**

(I) PREAMBLE: The issue of dog control and management has been engaging the attention of Municipal Corporation, Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Animal Welfare Board and NGOs especially Dog Welfare and citizens of the city. The nuisance of stray dogs has equally affected the citizens of all social strata. "The Chandigarh Registration of Pet Dogs Bye-Laws 2010" to regulate the registrations & control of pet dogs are in force within the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh. Presently the issue of stray dogs is being dealt by the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh as per the guidelines issued by the Animal Welfare Board i.e. under Animal Birth Control (dogs) Rules, 2001 and humane approach is adopted while dealing with issue of dogs. In view of the recent judgment of the Hon'ble High Court in the **CWP no.9902 of 2012 dated 31/10/2012**, there is need to evolve more effective result oriented guidelines for dog control and management. In furtherance of this aim the Municipal Corporation has attempted to review the existing provisions of the dog-bye laws, directions/guidelines by the Animal Welfare board, existing provisions of cruelty against animals, the judgments by the Hon'ble courts in suit no.1246 of 1992 by Delhi High Court and "Comprehensive guidelines for Dog control and Management" framed by the High Court of Bombay in CWP no.1596 of 1998, hence following guidelines are being framed with a view to balance the animal welfare activities and at the same time safeguarding the interest of general public using all available infrastructure, techniques and technology.

(II) OBJECTIVE : The primary objective is to evolve means to control stray dog nuisance and safeguard the citizens of the Chandigarh within the frame of humane approach as described by the Animal Welfare Board of India.

In order to achieve objective as above the methods of catching, transportation, sterilization, immunization, treatment of diseased dogs and killing of critically ill, fatally injured dogs upon their verification by the veterinarian, creating awareness among general public was reviewed and guidelines to manage stray dogs in the UT of Chandigarh have been finalised.

(III) CLASSIFICATION OF DOGS:

All dogs will be classified in one of the following two categories.

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| <p>(I) Pet Dogs</p> <p>(a) Pet dogs owners shall be fully responsible for the controlled breeding, immunization, sterilization they shall abide by the licensing provisions under "The Chandigarh Registration of Pet Dogs Bye-Laws, 2010".</p> <p>(b) These guidelines will be specifically applicable for stray dogs which shall be sterilized and immunized by active participation of animal welfare organizations/private individuals with adequate financial and infrastructure support from the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.</p> | <p>(II) Stray Dogs</p> |
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(IV) FORMATION OF MONITORING COMMITTEE TO MONITOR THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME:

In order to ensure effective compliance of these guidelines and for effecting necessary changes as the scheme evolves, a Monitoring Committee consisting of following persons shall be established by the local authority:-

- (1) The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh who shall be the ex-officio Chairman of Committee.
- (2) The Medical Officer of Health, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.
- (3) Superintendent Slaughter House, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.
- (4) Joint Director A.H. Chandigarh Administration.
- (5) Block Development and Panchayat Officer.
- (6) A representative of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Chandigarh.
- (7) A representative of People for Animal (PFA), Chandigarh.
- (8) A representative of State Animal Welfare Board (SAWB), Chandigarh.

(V) FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE :

The Committee shall be responsible for planning and management of stray dog control and management activities according to these guidelines and will;

- (a) Issue instructions for catching, transportation, sheltering, sterilization, vaccination, treatment and release of sterilized/ vaccinated/ treated dogs.
- (b) The Animal Husbandry Department, Chandigarh Administration Shall cover the area of U.T., Chandigarh outside the jurisdiction of M.C. w.r.t. sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs.
- (c) To seek co-operation of Chandigarh A.H. Deptt. w.r.t. use of their infrastructure, vety services, care & treatment to augment the scheme. The A.H Dept. of Chandigarh Administration is responsible for the implementation of animal health, animal welfare, control of endemic zoonotic disease such as rabies & parasitic infections (e;g echinococcus) which is within their competence.
- (d) Create public awareness and solicit co-operation.
- (e) Keep a watch on the national and international developments in the field of research etc. pertaining to stray dogs control and management, development of vaccines and cost effective methods of sterilization, vaccination etc.
- (f) Municipal Corporation should accept scientific attitude in dealing with dogs so that dogs are treated with utmost compassion and cruelties are avoided to the extent possible.
- (g) Fix the minimum targets for sterilization and immunization for the NGOs annually and NGOs shall be bound to implement the same as they are either funded or have been allotted land at concessional rates by the Chandigarh Administration/Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.

The NGO's are also potentially important parterners in contributing to public awareness, understanding & helping in a practical way for successful implementation of dog control programme through their expertise in handling & kenneling dogs.

- (h) To seek free immunization of dog bite victims from the Director Health Services maintaining data of pet dog and stray dog bite separately.

The members of the Committee shall provide their services honorarily and hold regular meeting quarterly basis and also in view of an emergent situation.

(VI) INFRASTRUCTURE AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY :

To be provided by the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh.

1. Dog Control Cell with one Computer, Internet & common facilities to be manned by one person.
2. Creation of a dog pound in the city as required for the housing dogs suspected of rabies temporarily or such arrangement be made in the existing shelters of NGO's.
3. Three dog vans with announcement system for capturing, transportation and release after operation from various zones.
3. One MultiPurpose Worker, One driver and four trained dog-catchers to be provided to each dog van.
4. Incinerator shall be installed by the Municipal Corporation at each dog shelter or a common incineration plant for disposal of dead dogs.
5. The NGOs will be reimbursed the expenses of sterilization/immunization by Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh at a rate fixed by the Monitoring Committee/Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.
6. To hold free anti-rabies camps throughout the year for stray dogs in a scheduled programme and this programme shall be repeated every year in similar fashion.
7. Municipal Corporation shall provide the financial support for tentage/transport/public address system/education literature/honorarium/other misc. operational expenses to the public awareness team.

(VII) GUIDELINES FOR CAPTURING, STERILIZATION, IMMUNIZATION AND RELEASE OF DOGS.

1. Capturing of dogs will be based on:
 - (a) Specific complaints (for which the Municipal Corporation shall set up a Dog Control Cell to receive complaints about dog nuisance, dog bites and information about rabid dogs) and
 - (b) General (in the normal course of implementing these guidelines).
 - (c) On receipt of specific complaint about dog nuisance or dog bite, the same shall be attended on priority basis, irrespective of the area from which the complaint comes. On receipt of such complaint the detail such as name of the complainant, his complete address, particulars and nature of complaint and date of complaint and other

relevant data shall be recorded in a register to be maintained for record.

(d) Provision in the Web site of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh to be provided to register online complaint and status of action taken in the matter for confidence building in general public. IEC activities, programmes including calendar for sterilization/immunization programmes shall be displayed at the website along with the important contact no. of concerned officials and NGOs.

(e) Capturing for general purpose will be as per a program drawn by the Committee/Municipal Corporation which will be covering various parts of the city zone-wise.

(2) The dog capturing squad shall consist of :-

(a) The driver of the dog van

(b) Employees of the Municipal Corporation who are trained in capturing of dogs & one supervisor i.e. MultiPurpose Worker (MPW).

(c) One representative of any of the dog welfare organization.

3. On receipt of specific complaint or for capturing dogs in normal course, the dog squad will visit the concerned area, capture the dogs identified by the complainant in case of complaint-oriented capturing and other dogs in case of general capturing. The record of dogs captured shall be maintained in a register mentioning therein the name of the area/locality, date and detail about dog captured such as number of male dogs, number of female dogs their colour/markings etc.

4. The dogs shall be captured using humane methods such as lassoing or soft-loop animal catchers prescribed under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelties (Capture of Animals) Rules, 1972.

5. While the dogs are being captured in any locality, the representatives of the animal welfare organization accompanying the dog squad will make announcements on a public address system that dogs are being captured from the area for the purpose of sterilization and immunization and will be released in the same area after 4-5 days. The announcement may also brief the residents of the area about the dog control programme and solicit the support of all the residents reassuring them that the Corporation is taking adequate steps for their safety. The representatives of public including councillors and RWA should be taken in confidence and

informed in advance about the schedule of dog capturing in their respective area. The information of dogs sterilized shall be updated on the official website on quarterly basis.

6. The captured dogs shall be brought to the dog shelters managed by the NGOs where they will be sterilized/vaccinated under the supervision of veterinarian of the hospital run by the SPCA/PFA or any other NGO. After necessary period of follow up, the dogs shall be released at the same place or locality from where they were captured and the date and place of their release shall be recorded. The representative of NGOs shall accompany the dog squad at the time of release also.
7. The dog shelter must have sufficient space for proper housing and free movement of dogs. The place should have proper ventilation and natural lighting and must be kept clean. Adults and puppies must be housed separately and amongst the adults, the males and females also should be housed separately. Adequate arrangement for drinking water and food shall be made for dogs while in captivity.
8. On reaching the dog shelters, all the dogs shall be examined by the veterinarians and healthy and sick dogs should be segregated. Sick dogs should be given proper treatment at the respective hospitals run by SPCA/PFA or any other animal welfare NGO and only after they are treated they should be sterilized and vaccinated.
9. Female dogs found to be pregnant shall not undergo abortion (irrespective of stage of pregnancy) and sterilization. They should be released back.
10. Identification of sterilized dogs shall be done by ear notch, collar or any other method to ensure identity.

(VIII) CREATION OF ZONES :

The entire city of Chandigarh shall be divided into zones and the responsibility of the effective implementation of the programme should be allocated area-wise to different NGOs as under:-

- Zone-1: Area towards North of Madhya Marg.
- Zone-2: Area between Madhya Marg & Dakshin Marg.
- Zone-3: Area towards South of Dakshin Marg.

Allocation of areas to NGOs should be reviewed on yearly basis and can be reallocated based on the requirement and work performance of NGO and capacity of NGO to carryout programme responsibly.

(IX) KILLING OF STRAY DOGS:

- (1) No stray dog shall be killed as a rule subject to the exception of critically ill, fatally injured. The decision whether a dog belonging to any of these categories needs to be put to sleep with the sole object of relieving it of the pain of such sickness, injury shall be taken by the Vet doctor employed by the NGOs.
- (2) Diseased/incurably ill and mortally wounded dogs as diagnosed by veterinarian & approved by President & General Secretary i.e. two senior most office bearers of the respective NGO, to be killed, shall be euthanized during working hours specified by the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh in an approved humane manner i.e. By administering Sodium Pentothol for adult dogs and Thiopentol intra-peritoneal for puppies by a veterinarian of NGO or euthanized in any other humane manner approved by the Animal Welfare Board of India. No dog shall be euthanized in the presence of another dog. The person responsible for euthanizing shall make sure that animal is dead before disposal.

(X) HANDLING OF RABID DOGS

An insane or mad dog is the common term used to describe a rabid dog. Rabies is of two types - Furious and Dumb.

Symptoms of Furious Rabies.

Any early symptoms are that the dog becomes ill-tempered and loses its desire for human company. It attempts to isolate itself. The presence of other dogs makes him very hostile and he will attack them. The rabid dog will make attempts to get rid of the frothing at the mouth. In the advance stages of rabies, the dog's legs get paralyzed.

Symptom of Dumb Rabies.

The dog becomes very docile and cannot be provoked. In the later stages, the dog's legs get paralysed and there is frothing at the mouth.

Proposed Action :

- (1) On the receipt of complaint from public by the Municipal Corporation/NGO or on its own, the dog squad of the Corporation would catch such apparent rabid dog.
- (2) The dog which is caught would then be taken to the pound/shelter where it would be isolated in an isolation ward.
- (3) The suspected rabid dog would then be subjected to inspection by a panel of two persons i.e.
 - i. The Vet of respective NGO.
 - II. A veterinarian appointed by the Animal Husbandry Department., Chandigarh Administration.
- (4) If the dog is found to have a high probability of having rabies, it would be isolated till it dies a natural death. Death normally occurs within 10 days of contracting rabies. If the dog does not die within 10 days, it does not have rabies but some other disease with similar symptoms such as toxicity or hypocalcaemia. Premature killing of suspected rabid dogs thereafter prevents the true incidence of rabies from being known and appropriate action being taken.
- (5) If the dog is found not having rabies but some other disease, it would be handed over to the Animal welfare NGO who will take the necessary action to rehabilitate the dog after giving treatment.

(XI) DISPOSAL OF CARCASSES :

As only critically ill or fatally injured will be killed, it is advisable in the interest of public health that disposal of their carcasses and not died due to rabies is not entrusted to any outside agency. The carcasses of such dogs shall be disposed off in incinerators to be provided by the Municipal Corporation.

PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

- (1) These rules/guidelines shall be published in at least two English and two vernacular language dailies for the information of general public. The same shall be permanently made available on the official website of Municipal Corporation.

- (2) The Municipal Corporation shall publish a brief quarterly report of the progress and work done under the programme at the official website giving detail of sterilization and vaccination done so as to create public confidence and support for the programme.
- (3) Prevention is always better than cure. A team consisting of officials from the department and representative of NGO shall educate the residents (especially ladies/children and senior citizens who are more vulnerable to dog bites incidents) of different localities on public address system/holding awareness camps/block level meetings etc.
- (4) The other vulnerable group i.e small children will be educated through school visits through various school children activities like debate, quizzes, lesson assignments, poster competitions etc.
- (5) Other forms of media i.e. both print and electronic (Radio, TV, cable-network) will be used for creating awareness among general masses.
- (6) Appropriate budget provisions shall be made for awareness activities.
- (7) The Monitoring Committee shall ensure that awareness activities are being carried out on strictly regular basis.

(XII) REVIEW/REVISION OF THE SCHEME

As the programme evolves itself, the committee shall consider review/revision of the guidelines on annual basis, for more and more effective implementation of this programme for safety of humans and protection of animal rights.

(XIII) TIME FRAME OF THE SCHEME.

The Scheme will be given undisturbed run for at least 5 years to prove its effectiveness in controlling the nuisance.