

INSPECTION REPORT ON THE DOG BREEDING UNIT IN SAIDAPET, CHENNAI AS PER THE DIRECTIVE OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

**Submitted to**

Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), 13/1, 3rd Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai 600 041

Authorised by

Letter number 9-10/2013-14/PCA/Insp. DBU, dated 11th November 2014, issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India (**Annexure 1**)

Inspection conducted by

1. Dr Naresh Chandra Upreti, Programme Manager, Animal Rahat and Honorary Animal Welfare Officer, AWBI.
2. Dr S. Sooryadas, Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookode, Kerala.
3. Dr Avinash Kumar, Veterinary Officer, Animal Husbandry Department, Patna, Bihar.

Officials of Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (DAH & VS) and Professors of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) present during the inspection

1. Dr. Mahindran, Additional Director, DAH & VS
2. Dr. L. Ananth Padmanabhan, Joint Director & In-charge Additional Director, DAH & VS
3. Dr. Sankar Subramaniam, Joint Director & In-Charge Additional Director, DAH & VS
4. Dr. Ayub Khan, Assistant Director, DAH & VS
5. Dr. Ponnu Pandian, Assistant Director, In-Charge Saidapet Poly Clinic and DBU
6. Dr. V. Sujatha, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, DBU
7. Dr. B. Nagarajan, Professor, Department of Clinical Medicine, Ethics and Jurisprudence, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai
8. Dr. Cecilia Joseph, Professor, Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai

Date of Inspection

18 November 2014

Time of Inspection

08:45 hrs to 17:45 hrs

Purpose of the Inspection

As per the directive of honourable Madras High Court on the W.P. No. 34828 of 2013 and W.P. No. 25402 of 2013, PETA India & E. Seshan Vs The State of Tamil Nadu, dated 4-8-2014, for Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to determine decide whether the Dog Breeding Unit (DBU) should be closed down or continue to function by evaluating the changes and improvements made by the unit, if any, for which the court had granted a 3 months period.

Specific Objectives

1. Assess the welfare of dogs at the DBU, through observation and health examination and evaluate the changes or improvement made by DBU.
2. Assess the living condition of animals and evaluate the changes or improvement made by DBU.
3. Assess whether animals are managed and treated humanely.
4. Assess whether DBU serves its original objective.
5. Scrutinise the records and registers to assess whether they are sufficient and are in proper order and to evaluate the changes or improvement by DBU.
6. To examine the policies and protocols of DBU related to dog breeding and compliance of terms and conditions set by AWBI for registering DBU
7. Assess whether people who bought the puppies are genuine and the animals are humanely treated.

I. Executive Summary

As per the order of the honourable Madras High Court on W.P. No. 34828 of 2013 and W.P. No. 25402 of 2013, PETA India & E. Seshan Vs The State of Tamil Nadu, dated 4-8-2014, an inspection of DBU (DBU) run by Tamil Nadu State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services department was carried out on 18-11-2014.

Key welfare observations made by the inspectors during the inspection include a high and unacceptable level of mortality as reported by the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) professors, that most of the dogs maintained by DBU suffer from skin diseases possibly due to lowered immunity caused by inbreeding, the presence of pressure sores on dogs' bodies from being forced to live on hard floor without any bedding and in continuous confinement, and a lack of enrichment.

Most of the important terms and conditions set by Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) while registering the animals under The Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 are ignored and not complied with. For example, no veterinary certificates prior to the use of animals for breeding were presented by DBU to the inspection team. There is no separate breeding record maintained by DBU and the inspection team could not verify the breeding history of any of the male or female dogs so as to see that no female dogs are exploited to produce litters in two (2) consecutive breeding seasons, no female dogs are exploited to give birth to more than five (5) litters of puppies during her lifespan and no male dogs are used for breeding unless he is a healthy, mature dog, and only after he has reached his 18th month. No action plan and standard procedure has been developed and documented by DBU, approved and signed by AWBI and the DBU veterinarian, for exercising animals. As on 24 February 2015, no quarterly report on health/death of registered dogs, certified by a veterinarian is submitted to AWBI.

Apart from the serious health issues that were encountered at DBU, absence of a well written breeding policy and protocol in place questions the credibility of DBU's operation as there are no measures to stop continuous confinement, prevent indiscriminate breeding, inbreeding and incest breeding, to ensure environmental enrichment, and to ensure that the important communication about the preventive care and management of a pup is shared with the buyer. There is no record that shows that the staff at DBU have undergone any training on canine breeding and humane handling and management of animals.

Dog breeds being bred at DBU include those who are genetically prone to illness and lowered immunity and/or deliberately bred to be aggressive and/or which exist in the community or in abundance. Aggression and illness would be further worsened by the poor conditions at DBU. Promotion of breeds known to be aggressive is backward at a time when countries around the world are introducing breed-specific legislation to ban aggressive breeds for public health and renders DBU's purpose unnecessary and its work even dangerous and harmful to the larger community.

The recommendation of the previous inspection report stating the cruelty to dogs and various mental and physical health issues continues to exist as the root causes are inherent part of a commercial dog breeding unit and in addition lack of breeding policy and standard operating procedure makes things worse for the animals who arguably do not need to be bred.

II. Introduction:

Through an order dated 4-8-2014 the honourable Madras High Court directed that The DBU (DBU) at Saidapet, Chennai may be closed down if its manner of functioning is not improved in respect of animal welfare within a three months period from the date of judgement and that the inspection is to be done by AWBI (**Annexure 2**).

Thereafter as per the directive of the court and the request made by Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, through letter ROC No. 42181/PP3/14-1 dated: 22-08-2014 (**Annexure- 3**), The Registrar, TANUVAS through letter Endt.No.14975/G4/2014 dated 18.09.2014 deputed two professors to study and monitor the functioning of DBU on 24-09-2014 and 10-10-2014, and Director of Clinics, TANUVAS through vide Lr.no.203/DC/ 2014 dated 13-10-2014 submitted a report (**Annexure- 4**) with recommendation to the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

As per the authorisation received from AWBI, the three inspectors reached DBU at around 08:45am on 18th November 2014 and met the officials from Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (DAH & VS) and the professors deputed by TANUVAS. A briefing meeting followed between the inspection team and the officials of DAH & VS and TANUVAS and the purpose and specific objectives of the inspection were discussed and agreed. The DAH & VS and TANUVAS officials present during the inspection extended all cooperation to the inspection team and the entire inspection was carried out in their presence. The DBU officials had arranged a professional to get the entire inspection videographed.

III. Observations

1. Registration of DBU with AWBI

The DBU is now registered with the Animal Welfare Board of India under ABC (Dog) Rules 2001 through vide letter No.8-13/2014-15/ABC/DBR/0231-150 to 0258-177, dated 09-10-2014 issued by AWBI (**Annexure- 5**).

2. Observation and recommendation of TANUVAS

The major observation and recommendation of the report submitted by the professors appointed by TANUVAS states that "At present there are 19 Rajapalayam including pups, 2 Sippiparai, 2 Dobermanns, 2 Dalmatians, 2 Rottweilers and 4 Labradors maintained in the unit. As observed from the records, the survival rate of native breed pups is higher than the exotic breeds." It further states that "From the records, it was also found that the mortality rate of the pups from birth to sales is above the permissible level of 5 to 25% for Rottweiler, Labrador and Dobermann."

3. Observation of specific changes made by DBU in compliance to the findings of previous AWBI inspection report dated 24 June 2013

- a. Separate bowls with water was kept for drinking in all the kennels.
- b. Individual records pertaining to vaccination, deworming, treatment and breeding were found to be maintained for each animal. However there is no information and data entered under the breeding section for any dogs rendering it useless.

4. Demeanour of animals upon observation from a distance:

- a. Some Sippiparai/Chippiparai breed dogs like Pandey were biting the kennel gates indicative of zoonosis, repetitive stereotypic movements as a result of severe mental frustration. One Labrador female named Rhea and Rajapalayam female

named Priya were sitting with a dull and depressed demeanour in the corner of the kennel and not reacting to the presence of the attenders and the inspection team or other stimuli.



Photo 1: Pandy, Sippiparai male biting the kennel gate



Photo 2: Rhea, Female Labrador with dull and depressed demeanour



Photo 3: Priya, female Rajapalyam with a dull and depressed demeanour

5. Physical examination of the animals

- a. Both Rottweiler dogs, Bozo a male & Kanya a female, were suffering from body ticks. Bozo's treatment register indicates that he was suffering from pyoderma on 19-9-2014 and was treated for ticks on 24-10-14 with Ivermectin. Irrespective of having a policy for 'deticking' of the kennel once in a week and giving a tick bath to dogs once in two weeks, and having identified ticks on Bozo on 24-10-2014, the observation of ticks on Bozo and Kanya's body by AWBI inspectors on 18-11-2014 reveals the ineffectiveness of DBU's most basic policies.

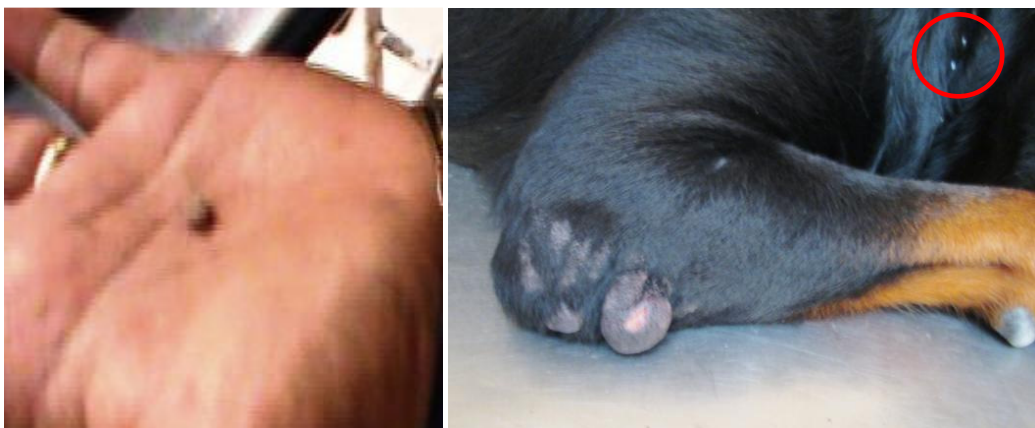


Photo 4: Tick collected from Bozo, a male Rottweiler

- b. One of the Rajapalayam females named Tara was having bilateral discharge from both eyes.



Photo 5: Tara, a female Rajapalayam having bilateral eye discharge

- c. A Rajapalayam female named Priya with thin body conditions was having right aural haematoma that had been fibrosed, along with inflammation of right external ear (Otitis Externa). Priya also had dermatitis on the extremities of her body such as face, legs and tail. As per the treatment record, Priya, a female Rajapalayam dog was also diagnosed and treated for hematoma on 29-10-2014.



Photo 6: Priya, female Rajapalayam with a hematoma on right ear pinna



Photo 7: Priya, female Rajapalyam with dermatitis on face



Photo 8: Priya, female Rajapalyam with dermatitis on extremities of leg

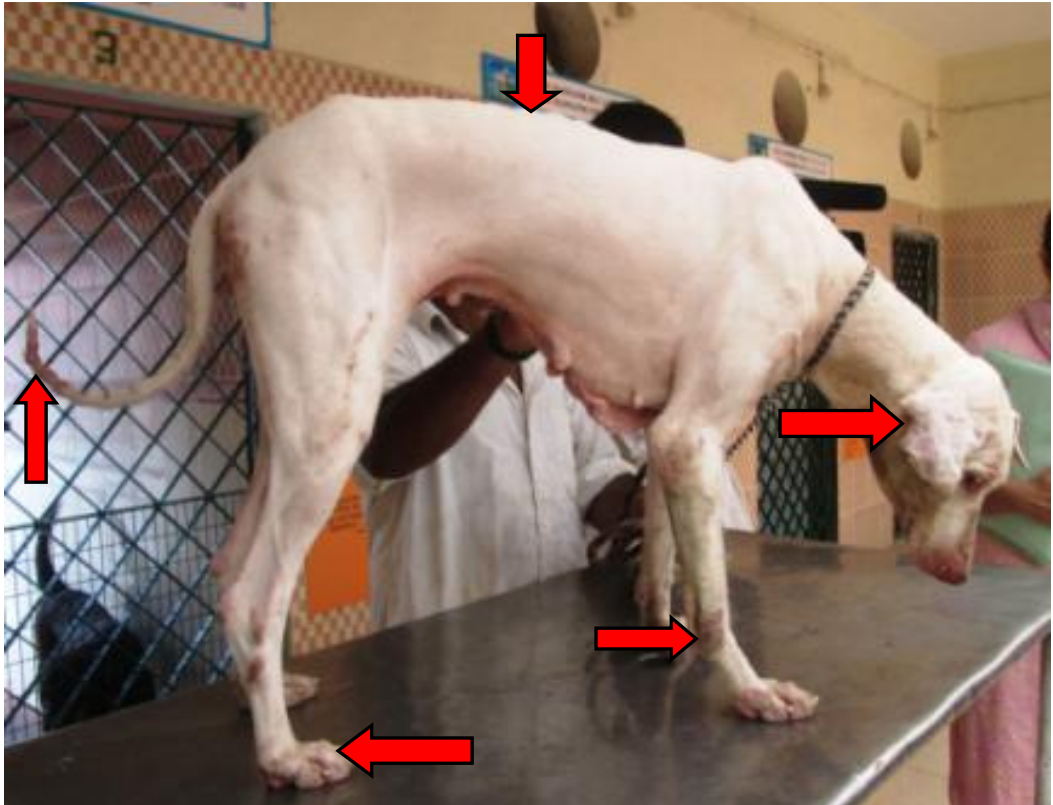


Photo 9: Priya, female Rajapalyam with thin body condition and dermatitis on different body extremities

- d. A Rajapalayam female named Kanchana had urticarial eruptions all over her body.



Photo 10: Kanchan, female Rajapalyam having urticarial eruptions all over the body

- e. As per the treatment record of Muffin, a female Rajapalayam, she was diagnosed with tick infestation on 24-10-2014 and her pups on 13-11-2014. The treatment report also reveals that her 3 pups were suffering from dermatitis (circular lesions on thighs and dorsum on 14-10-2014 and military lesions and hairy patches on body on 24-10-2014).
- f. Pressure sores were seen on both the elbows and left hock joint of Bozo, the male Rottweiler. Such sores occur when animals are forced to sit on hard ground, with no bedding or other such comfort.



Photo 11: Bozo, the male Rottweiler having pressure sore on both elbows



Photo 12: Bozo, the male Rottweiler having pressure sore near left hock

- g. Kanya, the female Rottweiler has pressure sores on right elbow, both the haunches and right hock joints. Kanya's pressure sore on her right elbow has lead to the formation of a raw wound. Kanya also had a small unhealed wound on the right shoulder.



Photo 13: Kanya, the female Rottweiler having pressure sore on right elbow



Photo 14: Kanya, the female Rottweiler having wound on right shoulder

- h. One of the female Rajapalayams named Kiran also had a pressure sore on her right elbow.

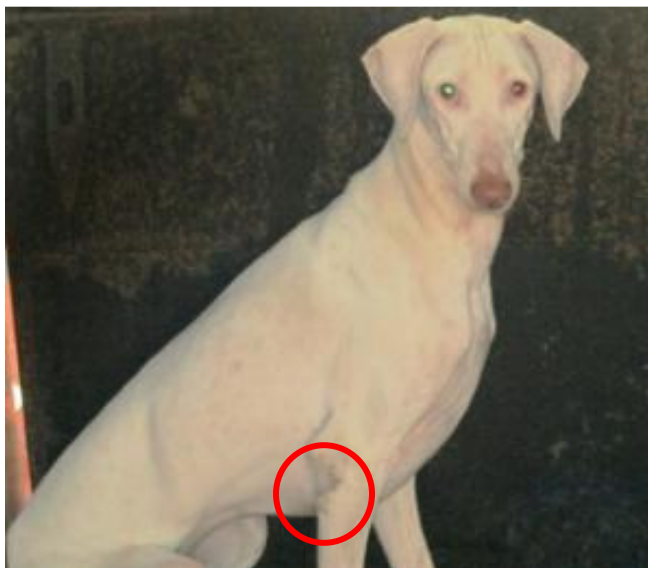


Photo 15: Kiran, the female Rajapalayam having pressure sore on right elbow

- i. Lara, the Rajapalayam female dog who was reported to be taken away for routine check up on the day of inspection was suffering from dermatitis as indicated in the case sheet produced by DBU. The case sheet says that the dermatitis got cured. (**Annexure- 6**).
- j. Kattaiyan, the Rajapalayam male dog is suffering from generalised demodectic mange for the last one and half years and was isolated. There is no improvement in the condition of the animal. The report submitted by the TANUVAS professors on 13/10/ 2014 stated that “It is observed that one Rajapalayam dog named Kattaiyan born on 03/11/2011 was found to be positive for Demodicosis on 29/01/2013 and is still under treatment. A dog with generalised demodectic mange is unfit for breeding and can transmit the disease to young ones. Hence it is strongly advised to cull the dog immediately which is unfit for breeding.” Until now no action has been taken by DBU yet and the dog is kept under isolation without any enrichment.



Photo 16: Kattaiyan, the Rajapalyam male dog having generalised chronic demodectic mange

6. Compliance of Terms and Conditions Set by AWBI for Registration of Breeding Unit

Ref No	Terms and Conditions	Compliance
A	General requirement to be adhered by the breeder	
A1	<p>Care and upkeep of Dogs: the dogs shall be supplied with adequate quantity of suitable food, adequate water and bedding material and adequately exercised. The consultant veterinarian shall visit the premises/ establishment of the licensee periodically, at regular intervals.</p> <p>Adequate (of suitable food) means the provision, at suitable intervals of not more than eight (8) hours, of a quantity of wholesome food suitable for that species and age, and enough to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition in each animal. All food shall be served in a safe receptacle, dish or container.</p> <p>Adequate water means the provision of a supply of fresh, clean drinking water in a safe receptacle, dish or container. Water shall be available at all times.</p>	<p>Partial compliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No bedding is provided to dogs. <p>There is a small, insufficient exercise yard at DBU. Daily activity chart displayed at DBU shows that the animals are exercised in the afternoon between 3 pm and 5 pm. However, on the day of inspection, the animals were not being exercised during this period putting the claim in the chart in doubt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The dog suffering from chronic mange, and who is quarantined, is never exercised. - Commercial dog food (Pedigree) is offered just once in a day to all the adult animals. Food is offered in separate container. - Separate bowl was provided for drinking water. There was no provision for replenishing the bowl with fresh water at all times.
A2	<p>Only normal healthy, mature female dogs that have reached their 18th month shall be bred. They shall be certified as healthy by a licensed veterinarian at least ten (10) days prior to their being bred.</p>	<p>Non-compliance: No veterinary certificates or records were presented by DBU to the inspection team.</p>
A3	<p>No female dog shall be exploited to produce litters in two (2) consecutive breeding seasons. Female dogs shall not be used such that they give birth to puppies before the end of the period of the twelve months beginning with the day on which they last give birth to puppies. Only</p>	<p>Non compliance: No breeding data could be found that establishes that the breeding was planned by DBU for each animal and hence the exploitation of female dogs to produce litters in two consecutive breeding cannot be ruled out.</p>

	one litter shall be produced in one year.	
A4	No female dog shall be exploited to give birth to more than five (5) litters of puppies during her lifespan.	Non-compliance: No breeding data could be found that establishes that the breeding was planned by DBU for each animal and hence the exploitation of female dogs to give birth to more than five litters during her lifespan cannot be ruled out.
A5	No male dog shall be used for breeding unless he is a healthy, mature dog, and only after he has reached his 18 th month. He shall be certified as healthy by a licensed veterinarian at least ten (10) days prior to his being mated.	Non-compliance: No breeding data could be found that establishes that the breeding was planned by DBU for each male dog. No health certificate of the veterinarian was found during the inspection.
A6	The following two techniques are NOT ALLOWED and not accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In breeding: mating between dogs that are related. That means that at least one ancestor of either is present on the side of both sire and dam. Inbreeding between relatives of the 2nd to 4th grade in straight or side line within the first four generations e.g. uncle to niece, nephew to aunt, cousin, grandparent to grandchildren. This is strictly forbidden. - Incest breeding: mating between parents and children or between brother and sister. i.e 1st grade relatives. This is strictly forbidden. 	Non-compliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no policy, protocol and record maintained by DBU to prevent inbreeding and incest breeding. - With a limited number of dogs being used, who share the same gene pool, it can be assumed inbreeding occurs. - No measures are taken by DBU to avoid incest breeding, continued inbreeding and line breeding. - During the inspection it was found that DBU has retained one pup from the Rajapalayam female to be used as sire for future breeding. - There is no policy and system to get sire or dam from outside DBU.
A7	Incest breeding as well continued inbreeding and line breeding is risky, since it increases the danger of hereditary diseases.	Non-compliance: As mentioned above.
A8	Female dogs shall not be mated after the age of 8 years.	Compliance: No female dogs beyond 8 years of age were found at DBU during the inspection.
A9	There shall be no tail docking, ear cropping or any other kind of mutilation of the puppy. Any change of appearance by artificial means is	Compliance No tail docking, ear cropping or any other mutilation was observed during the inspection.

	strictly forbidden.	
B	Exercise for dogs and socialising:	
	Commercial kennels, Commercial breeders, traders, other dealer and exhibitor shall develop, document and follow an appropriate plan to provide dogs with an opportunity for exercise. The plan shall be approved and signed by the licensee and the attending veterinarian, and include written standard procedures to be followed in providing the opportunity for exercise. The plan shall also be made available to the state veterinarian or his/ her designated representative upon request. It shall, at a minimum, comply with each of the following:	Non-compliance: No action plan and standard procedure is developed and documented by DBU, approved and signed by AWBI and the DBU veterinarian for exercising animals.
B1	Annual Vaccination/ Deworming of Dog: The dogs in every breeding premises/ establishment shall be annually vaccinated against rabies (and preferably against canine distemper, parvo-virus, leptospirosis and viral hepatitis) and are dewormed every quarter.	Compliance: Annual vaccination against the diseases specified by AWBI and regular deworming is being practiced at DBU.
B2	The applicant shall ensure that a quarterly report of the Registered Animals in respect of their Health, Death certified by a veterinary Doctor is submitted to the Animal Welfare Board of India.	Non-compliance: No quarterly report on health/death of registered dogs, certified by veterinarian is submitted to AWBI as on 24 February 2015.
B3	The applicant is requested to quote the Registration Number (s) in all future correspondence	Not applicable
C	The Unit/ dogs are open for inspection by person(s) authorised by Animal Welfare Board of India.	Compliance
D	It was noticed that a dog bearing microchip No. 900188000030270 found to be suffering from severe generalised demodicosis. It is advised that a separate quarantine/ isolation ward must be provided for this dog. Exercise and socialization is also to be provided to dog to avoid isolation stress and special care given to improve the immune system along with treatment for the disease.	Partial compliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This dog (Rajapalayam male) is isolated from other animals and is kept in isolation - No exercise was given on the day of inspection - Socialisation is not desirable prior to cure as it may cause mange infestation in other dogs.

7. Other observations

a. **Using old male dogs for breeding:** As per the record of DBU, two old male dogs- Tiger, a Labrador (microchip no 900188000030232), born on 01-05-2000 (approximately 15 year old), and Danny, a Rajapalayam dog (microchip no 900188000030212) born on 09-3-04 (approximately 11 year old) are still being used for breeding (there aren't any record to prove otherwise). Using these old male dogs for breeding may subject them to undue stress and negatively affect their health. Moreover in the absence of any checking done to determine the quality of their semen, there could be adverse effect on the pregnancy and the puppies that are born.

b. Following records were checked during the inspection:

- i. Feeding register
- ii. Individual animal records having vaccination, treatment and breeding record (no entries made)
- iii. Pup sales register
- iv. Mating, whelping and pup sales register
- v. Attendance register of polyclinic showing the staff of DBU
- vi. Duty register of veterinarians on round during the night hours from Saidapet polyclinic
- vii. Post-mortem records



Photo 17: Attendances register



Photo 18: Duty register

Date	Time	Amount	Other
10/1/14	08:00	100g	
10/1/14	12:00	100g	
10/1/14	18:00	100g	
10/2/14	08:00	100g	
10/2/14	12:00	100g	
10/2/14	18:00	100g	
10/3/14	08:00	100g	
10/3/14	12:00	100g	
10/3/14	18:00	100g	
10/4/14	08:00	100g	
10/4/14	12:00	100g	
10/4/14	18:00	100g	
10/5/14	08:00	100g	
10/5/14	12:00	100g	
10/5/14	18:00	100g	
10/6/14	08:00	100g	
10/6/14	12:00	100g	
10/6/14	18:00	100g	
10/7/14	08:00	100g	
10/7/14	12:00	100g	
10/7/14	18:00	100g	
10/8/14	08:00	100g	
10/8/14	12:00	100g	
10/8/14	18:00	100g	
10/9/14	08:00	100g	
10/9/14	12:00	100g	
10/9/14	18:00	100g	
10/10/14	08:00	100g	
10/10/14	12:00	100g	
10/10/14	18:00	100g	

Photo 19: Feeding Register

Date	Name	Sex	Price
10/1/14
10/2/14
10/3/14
10/4/14
10/5/14
10/6/14
10/7/14
10/8/14
10/9/14
10/10/14

Photo 20: Pup Sales Register

Date	Litter	Whelping	Sales
10/1/14
10/2/14
10/3/14
10/4/14
10/5/14
10/6/14
10/7/14
10/8/14
10/9/14
10/10/14

Photo 21: Mating, Whelping and Sales register

POST-MORTEM CERTIFICATE

Examined the body of a Labrador Retriever

Reported to have died at 10:00 am on 10/10/14

Age 8 years 6 months

Sex Male

Color Black

Weight 25 kg

Height 60 cm

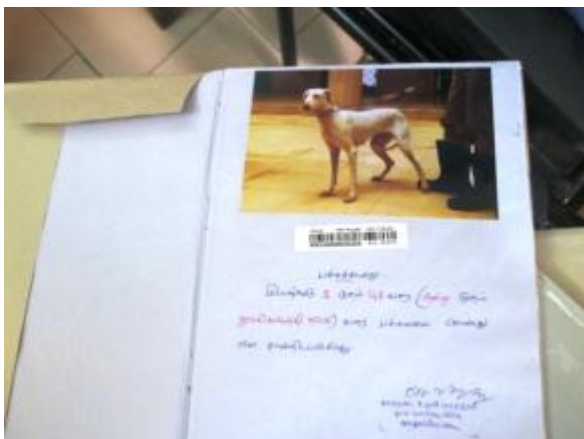
Place of death: ...

Time of death: 10:00 am

Reason for death: ...

Signature: ...

Photo 22: Post - Mortem Register



Date	Name of the animal
10/1/14	...
10/2/14	...
10/3/14	...
10/4/14	...

Photos 23: Individual Animal Records

- c. As per the schedule displayed at DBU, removal of ticks ('deticking') from kennel is done once in a week, regular bath is given to dogs once in two weeks and 'tick bath' is given once in two weeks. However, the presence of ticks on both Rottweiler dogs, Bozo a male & Kanya a female at the time of inspection questions adherence to and effectiveness of this schedule.

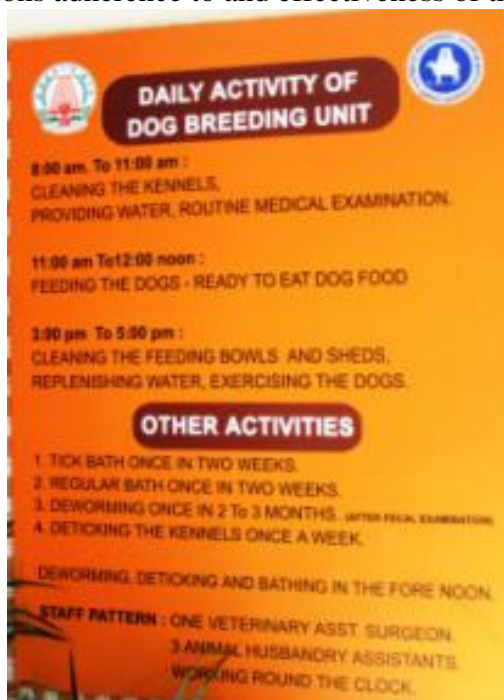


Photo 24: Daily activity chart

- d. Animal stock position is displayed in the room of the veterinarian in-charge. As per the list there were a total of 31 animals as on 18 November 2014, which includes 15 adult Rajapalyam dogs (3 males & 12 Females), 2 adult Chippiparai dogs (1 male & 1 female), 2 adult Rottweiler dogs (1 male & 1 female), 2 adult Dalmatian dogs (1 male & 1 female), 4 adult Labrador dogs (2 males & 2 females), 2 adult Doberman dogs (1 male & 1 female) and 4 Rajapalyam pups (1 male & 3 females). Out of the two empty kennels, one belonged to Kattiyan, the male Rajapalyam dog suffering from chronic mange and now being isolated and the second one belonged to Lara, the female Rajapalyam dog who was away, as claimed by DBU officials, taken to a veterinary hospital for routine checkups.

	ADULT		PUP	
	M	F	M	F
RAJAPALAYAM	3	12	1	3
SIPPIPARAI	1	1	—	—
ROTTWEILER	1	1	—	—
DALMATIAN	1	1	—	—
LABRADOR	2	2	—	—
DOBERMAN	1	1	—	—
Total - 31				

Photo 25: Stock position of DBU as on 18 November 2014

- e. At the times of inspection 1 Veterinary Assistant Surgeon and 3 Animal Husbandry Assistants were present and the same was recorded in the attendance register.
 - f. As per records, during the period of 2014-15, a total of 32 pups were born and 27 were sold. One Rajapalayam male pup was retained by DBU and 1 male Labrador pup of Tara died. 3 pups of Muffin, the Rajapalayam female were present at the time of inspection and were not sold.
 - g. The inspection team also collected random blood samples from two Rajapalayam female dogs, Priya and Kavitha and the laboratory investigation report (**Annexure- 7**) indicated that the blood cortisol level of Kavitha is 1.74 Microgram/ dl and that of Priya is 1.78 Microgram/ dl and falls in normal range.
8. **Field survey:** After the inspection at DBU, the inspection team decided to do a random check on health and welfare of pups that were sold to the public by the DBU. It was reported by the officials of DBU that they have started recording the contact phone numbers of the people buying pups, only very recently. As per the list (**Annexure- 8**), the inspection team visited Mr. Satish Kumar, 28, Jayaraman St, Saidapet, Chennai who bought 1 Chippiparai female pup in 2010 and 2 Rajapalayam male pups, in the year 2011 and 2013. Upon reaching the address, the inspection team was told that Mr. Satish has moved to another location and his contact phone number was provided. When Mr. Satish was contacted on phone he informed that he has never purchased any pup from DBU raising significant concern about those dogs' welfare or DBU's records.

The inspection team also visited Mr. Satish Kumar a resident of 6, Choolaih Street, Vepery, Chennai who has bought a female Rajapalayam from DBU 5 months back. This pup was found to be in good health.

9. **Telephonic survey of buyers:** The inspection team also contacted the recent buyers whose phone numbers were available with DBU (DBU doesn't have complete contact details for previous buyers). Out of the 9 contacts given by DBU, the inspection team tried to call them to find out certain details (**Annexure- 9**). Out of 9 buyers, one buyer was very upset and unhappy with DBU as his pup died of Parvo infection and he complained that he was never told about the vaccination protocol he needed to follow. Two other buyers gave away their pups away and are not sure about the welfare of the pups as of now. DBU not checking the credentials of the buyers, not briefing him/her about the preventive and routine management and care practices to be followed (there is no standard briefing procedures and handouts to be given to buyers) and not doing further follows ups with the buyers, raise serious concerns about the welfare of individual pups and the very objective of conservation and promotion of native breeds through this programme. Further, the selling of pups who would be un-socialised, not house trained, and may be aggressive appears to be resulting in the dogs being sold or passed on, and abandoned.

IV. Discussion

1. Mental and Physical Health Problems:

a. High prevalence of skin diseases:

Many dogs, especially the Rajapalayam breed at DBU were suffering from chronic skin diseases such as dermatitis and mange. The prevalence is higher than what was observed by the inspector of AWBI during previous inspection. It is evident that there is an obsession to have Rajapalayam dogs *look* a certain way which has nothing whatsoever to do with conservation, and everything to do with fashion. The look is for the dogs to have fair skin- white skin and a rosy nose. As specifications of a breed's look become more particular, levels of inbreeding rise, and so does the risk of more of the genes becoming homozygous and deleterious recessive mutations increases, resulting in what is known as inbreeding depression. As reported in a leading news paper, Times of India on 17 July 2014 under the heading '*Craze for fair skin takes a toll on native canine breed in Tamil Nadu*' (**Annexure- 10**), Dr Kishore Kumar, at Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in Vellore stated that "The local Indian zamindars then began 'creating' pure white Rajapalayams for the British because they believed in the idea: the whiter, the more beautiful. The albino Rajapalayam- the only kind you see nowadays- is an evolved breed. You cannot see them in any other colour. Years of in-breeding have made most of the dogs deaf and weak with shorter life spans and extremely low immunity levels," The Rajapalayam breed is genetically compromised and the low immunity level explains the higher prevalence of skin diseases among these breed of dogs in DBU. "Conserving" a breed who is now prone to being born with serious handicaps once again seems to be about fashion, not concern for the breed, and in fact at the dogs' expense.

b. Prevalence of pressure sores:

Both the Rottweilers, and one Rajapalayam dog are suffering from fresh wounds and pressure sores. One of the conditions set by Animal Welfare Board while issuing registration to DBU is importance of providing bedding for the dogs. The previous inspection report too pointed out that the animals at DBU are forced to lie on hard floor at DBU. The pressure sores observed on Rottweiler and Rajapalayam dogs clinically explains that the situation hasn't changed for dogs. Pressure sores also called decubital ulcers, are always caused by chronic trauma to a dog's skin and subcutaneous tissue as a result of lying on hard surfaces for prolonged periods of time. They include calluses, which are thickened, wrinkled, hairless areas of skin, and hygromas, which are soft, usually painless, fluid-filled sacs under the skin. Pressure sores are common in kennels, especially in large, heavy breeds and those who are housed on cement floors without soft, well-padded bedding. Prolonged pressure on areas where bone and skin are thinly separated reduces blood supply to the area, and thereby causes tissue damage. The commonly affected part of the body is elbow, although pressure sores can develop on the hips, hocks and sides of the hind legs. Often these sores are painful. Dogs often lick relentlessly at pressure sores, which then abscess, ulcerate and become a raw weeping wound.

c. Presence of ectoparasites:

Both the Rottweilers have ticks on their body. A Rajapalayam dog was also reported be treated for tick infestation. Presence of ticks on dogs is an indication

of lack of grooming and appropriate treatment for external parasites. Considering the potential chances of ticks multiplying and changing hosts and the role of ticks as a vector in transmission of life threatening haemoprotozoal diseases, this seems to be serious welfare concern at DBU.

d. Other important issues:

- i. Poor body condition score, prevalence of aural haematoma and eye discharge were also observed by the inspection team.
- ii. The Chippiparai and Rajapalayam breeds of dogs are known to be aggressive or are used for aggressive purposes. The Chippiparai and Rajapalayam are typically used for hunting, which could contribute to violations of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and guarding which could lead the dogs to be constantly chained, neglected or abused. Rottweilers and Dobermans, also being bred by DBU, are universally known to be aggressive in nature and these are not dogs considered to be for people's homes with children. Breed-specific legislation in towns and countries around the world bans or restricts the sale or breeding of numerous breeds known to be aggressive, including Rottweilers and Dobermans.
- iii. As per the advice of the external experts, the dog with chronic demodicosis/mange was isolated as he is unfit for breeding. This animal is suffering since 2012 and DBU haven't taken any action to relive his suffering.
- iv. The inspection team observed that neither the DBU nor the nearby Veterinary Poly Clinic possess basic equipments such as microscope, ultrasound scanner for detection of foetal viability and anomalies and even confirming pregnancy, and other essential diagnostic tools to screen the dogs for reproductive health issues such as infertility, infections caused by herpes, brucella or leptospira etc, vaginal exfoliative cytology for diagnosis of transmissible venereal tumour, vaginoscopy, hormonal evaluation and vaginal exfoliative cytology to time the breeding, facilities for semen collection and semen analysis, autoclave for sterilisation of surgical or obstetrics equipments etc. With hardly any diagnostic and advance treatment facilities in place, DBU is no different from a private breeder who just allows some random natural mating of dogs and sell puppies. Chippiparai, Rajapalayams and the foreign breed dogs being sold by DBU are already sold by regular breeders per public demand.

2. Non compliance of AWBI's terms and conditions for registering animals under Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001:

There is no system to prevent inbreeding and incest breeding, and to ensure that no female dogs are forced to deliver more than one litter per year and not more than 5 litters from her entire lifespan. There was no bedding provided to dogs as mandated by AWBI's terms and conditions and the outcome was visible in the form of pressure sores on many animals. There is no written action plan and SOP neither proposed by DBU nor approved by AWBI.

3. Failure to meet the objective of conservation and promotion of native breeds

- a. It was observed that one kennel has males and female Rottweiler kept together with no control by DBU on their breeding. DBU claimed that sometimes they retain a pup to use him/her for breeding subsequently promoting inbreeding. In general, while most of the male dogs are kept largely un-socialized in isolation, few females are kept with other female dogs.
- b. The DBU doesn't have a written policy or protocol to ensure the quality of life of dogs, to prevent continuous confinement and indiscriminate breeding or inbreeding, to ensure environmental enrichment, to streamline husbandry procedures, to accentuate preventive care and minimise veterinary care and to ensure that the important communication about the care and management of pup is shared with the buyer.
- c. DBU is only acting as a source of native breed pups as well as common foreign breeds who are sold already in pet shops and the like and there is actually no "conservation" taking place as once the pups are sold, there is no control or restriction on their breeding. Further, DBU does not have any equipment or systems in place to make them any different to regular breeders who already sell these dogs, including the native breeds. Neither does DBU have any policy or protocol in place to conserve the germplasm as the buyer of the pup do not have any agreement with DBU to ensure that the pup they buy should be crossed only with a dog of the same breed which have to meet the breed specifications recommended by DBU.
- d. All of the breeds of dogs DBU sells are already sold by pet stores or breeders, and exist in communities, rendering DBU's contribution essentially meaningless.
- e. It is an accepted fact that the present albino Rajapalayam is a breed evolved from inbreeding, so as to meet the obsession by the British of having dogs with white skin and a rosy nose. As specifications of a breed's look become more particular, levels of inbreeding rise, and so does the risk of more and more of the genes becoming homozygous for deleterious recessive mutations increases, resulting in what is known as inbreeding depression. Rajapalayam breeds which are a result of inbreeding depression have low immunity levels and are prone to be deaf and weak with shorter life spans. Rajapalayam breed is genetically compromised and any efforts to maintain the breed are about fashion, not conservation or welfare. The low immunity level explains the high prevalence of skin diseases among these breed of dogs in DBU.
- f. The Chippiparai and Rajapalayam breeds of dogs are known to be aggressive or are used for aggressive purposes such as hunting. Because of the same they need wide open spaces and more exercise, which a small facility like DBU can't offer. Rottweilers and Dobermans, also sold by DBU, are also bred to be aggressive. Because of this reason these are not dogs for people's homes with children. The native dogs which Tamil Nadu DBU wishes to promote are also often used as hunting dogs despite hunting wild animals being illegal under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, or as guard dogs for which they are likely relegated to a life of neglect and chains. Ironically certain breeds like Rottweiler and Doberman being bred by DBU are considered to be dangerous and banned or heavily restricted in many European countries such as France, Spain, Ireland, Italy,

Romania etc and in Israel and US due to their aggressiveness and potential danger to children and other humans.

- g. All dogs are descendants of wolves, and dog breeds are artificially created by humans to suit a human whim or fancy, such as wanting a white dog, or a dog with fluffy hair. These are not species that require a conservation scheme, but are simply artificial variations of the same species. Creating these variations based on specific unnatural physical traits, in fact, puts the dogs' health at risk. Breeding for unnatural physical traits is just a hobby of people who put dogs' looks over the dogs' welfare, and not a government matter. It should be noted that it was only after the arrival of the British that dog breeding really started among the Indian upper class as a way of imitating British hobbies. Ironically now, in the UK, people are increasingly showing a preference for healthier mixed breeds.
- h. Dogs who breed naturally without human interference, results in the healthiest animals. That's why our Indian community dogs are so hearty, resilient, healthy and robust. The best recommended strategy for conservation of a germplasm is *Ex-Situ* conservation which includes cryogenic preservation. Cryogenic preservation includes preservation of frozen semen, oocytes, embryos and ovaries and embryonic stem cells of blastomeres, production of embryos in vitro, embryo splitting etc. Preservation and promotion of native breeds of dogs in Tamil Nadu can be better done, if the government still so desires despite there being no need, in the respective villages of Tamil Nadu where a population of these dog breeds already exists, such as Rajapalayam town, in Virudhunagar district.

Recommendations:

Based on critical observations such as,

1. High prevalence of health problems particularly skin diseases and high mortality rate due to inbreeding depression, prevalence of pressure sores and ectoparasites, continuous confinement, lack of opportunity for socialisation and adequate exercise contravenes the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960,
2. Non-compliance of important terms and conditions set by AWBI while registering dogs at DBU, under Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001
3. Absence of a breeding policy and Standard Operating Procedure to prevent indiscriminate breeding, inbreeding depression and to serve original objective of conservation and promotion of native breed.
4. Breeding of common foreign breeds such as Doberman, Dalmatian, Rottweiler, Labrador, who no way require any conservation
5. Selling of native and other breeds known for their aggressiveness at a time when breed-specific legislation in towns and countries around the world are banning such breeds

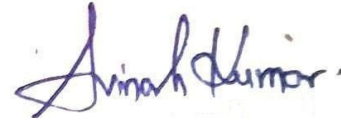
the inspection team recommends that DBU may be closed down, and the existing animals may taken to an animal hospital cum shelter so that they can get the treatment and care they desperately need before being adopted into loving homes.

1. Dr Naresh Chandra Upreti, Programme Manager, Animal Rahat



(Signature)

2. Dr Avinash Kumar, Veterinary Officer, Animal Husbandry Department, Bihar



(Signature)

3. Dr S. Sooryadas, Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookode.



(Signature)

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