

KM Mani
 Leader and Chair – Kerala Congress (M)
 State Committee Office
 Near Fire Station
 Kottayam, Kerala

28 September 2016

Dear Mr Mani,

Your urgent attention is requested.

I am writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and as an Honorary Animal Welfare Officer appointed by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

According to news reports, at least five stray dogs were killed by the youth wing of the Kerala Congress (M). Saji Manjakadambil, who was leading the protest, reportedly told the media, "We have killed these dogs. And it's a warning that this will continue if the central and the state government do not control the stray dog menace".

As you probably know, causing animals to suffer is a punishable offence under Section 11(1)(a) and (l) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, which states that the following are illegal:

11. Treating animals cruelly: (1) If any person (a) beats, kicks, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures or otherwise treats any animal so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering or causes, or being the owner permits, any animal to be so treated; or . . .

(l) mutilates any animal or kills any animal (including stray dogs) by using the method of strychnine injections, in the heart or in any other unnecessarily cruel manner.

Also, this act is an offence according to Sections 34 and 429 of the Indian Penal Code, 1851, which state the following:

34. Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention. – When a criminal act is done by several persons in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone. . . .

429. Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the value of fifty rupees. – Whoever commits mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering useless, any elephant, camel, horse, mule, buffalo, bull, cow or ox, whatever may be the value thereof, or any other animal of the

PEOPLE FOR
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value of fifty rupees or upwards, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both.

We urge you to consider this matter with the utmost urgency, take steps to ensure the strongest police action and punishments permitted under the law, expel those who were involved in this killing from the youth wing, and require them to undergo psychiatric counselling and evaluation prior to rejoining.

Acts of cruelty to animals like this one indicate a deep mental disturbance. Research in psychology and criminology shows that people who commit acts of cruelty to animals often don't just stop there – many of them move on to hurting other animals, children, women, or other people. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has found that a history of cruelty to animals is one of the traits that regularly appear in its computer records of serial rapists and murderers. In India, too, Veerappan was a serial killer and poacher, and the infamous Noida serial murders of children took place at the home of Moninder Singh Pandher, who was fond of hunting. In a study of battered women, nearly 60 per cent said they had partners who had harmed or killed their dogs or other animals.

I'm sure you agree that the abuse of any living being, including dogs, is unacceptable and endangers everyone. It must be stopped before the culprits act again. Our office has been inundated with calls and e-mails from people all over India and abroad who want to see the culprits in this case punished. We therefore respectfully urge you to look into this important matter.

I look forward to your action and response. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Meet Ashar
Emergency Response Coordinator, PETA India
Honorary Animal Welfare Officer, AWBI

cc: Chief Minister of Kerala
Chief Secretary, Kerala State Government
Director General of Police, Kerala
Vice Chairman, AWBI

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