



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)
NIAW Campus, 42 Mile Stone, Delhi-Agra Highway
NH-2, Ballabgarh, Haryana-121004
Email: animalwelfareboard@gmail.com : Website: www.awbi.in

No. 9-16/2019-20/PCA

Date: 22.05.2020

To,

The Director,
Animal Husbandry Department
of all States/Union Territories

Sir,

Subject: Enforcement of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (PCA Act, 1960) and rules framed thereunder to prevent cruelty to animals in circuses stranded during COVID-19- reg.

With reference to the above cited subject, it has been brought to the notice of the Board that during this period of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several circuses have been stranded across the country and these establishments are unable to ensure the well-being of the animals or provide these animals with basic necessities such as food, water, and veterinary care, causing them unnecessary pain and suffering.

2. It is submitted that under Section 3 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of an animal to prevent them from experiencing any unnecessary pain or suffering. Under Section 11(1)(f), it is cruel to keep an animal tethered with a short or heavy chain or cord for an unreasonable length of time. Section 11(1)(g) mandates that no one may neglect to exercise a dog by keeping the animal chained up or in close confinement. Under Section 11(1)(h), any failure to provide an animal with sufficient food, water, or shelter is a punishable offence, and Section 11(1)(i) states that it is cruel to abandon an animal to suffer from starvation or dehydration.

3. In view of the above, it is requested that the State Animal Welfare Board or the State Animal Husbandry Department are to identify such circuses stranded in any districts of the State, to inspect the animals, housing conditions and feeding practices; verify the Performing Animal Registration Certificate issued by the AWBI regarding the number and species of animals registered and furnish the comprehensive report to AWBI against each circuses. The list of registered circuses are attached herewith for your information and necessary action.

Kindly treated the matter as MOST URGENT.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr S. K. Dutta)
Secretary

Enclosure: List of circuses registered with AWBI under Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001