

Shri Rajeev Verma, IAS
Chief Secretary
Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi
Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate
New Delhi – 110002

26 November 2025

Subject: Urgent request to direct a prohibition on pit bulls, Rottweilers, and other foreign dog breeds specifically bred for aggression and attacks in Delhi

Respected Sir,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals India (PETA India) and our more than 2 million members and supporters to respectfully **request that your office direct the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to prohibit the keeping, breeding, and sale of pit bulls, Rottweilers, and other foreign dog breeds specifically bred for fighting and aggression.** This request follows a recent incident in Prem Nagar, Delhi, in which a 6-year-old boy was attacked by a pit bull unprovoked, resulting in severe injuries, including the loss of his right ear ([Annexure 1](#)).

As stated in our previous communication dated 9 December 2024 to your good office ([Annexure 2](#)), **dog breeds including pit bull terriers, Rottweilers, Pakistani bully kuttas, Dogo Argentinos (Argentine mastiffs), Presa Canarios, Fila Brasileiros (Brazilian mastiffs), bull terriers, Cane Corso (Italian Mastiff), and XL bullies** have deliberately been bred to be abused in fights and used for attack, and many are sold to unsuspecting buyers who are themselves attacked or cannot control the animals. Since January 2025, numerous attacks by such dogs on people have been reported across India, many resulting in serious injuries or fatalities (*a factsheet for such cases is enclosed as Annexure 3*). Last year, in January, an 18-month-old girl in Burari was viciously mauled by a pit bull; she suffered three fractures on her leg and had to get 18 stitches ([Annexure 4](#)). These tragic incidents underscore the need to safeguard both the public and the dogs themselves, who are often exploited by criminal elements for unlawful fighting purposes.

Inciting dogs to fight is illegal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. Yet organised dogfights are becoming prevalent in parts of India including Delhi. Pit bulls are chosen because they're among the bully breeds that were originally bred for bullbaiting and bearbaiting and are now used for dogfighting. Pit bull-type dogs are among the most abused breeds on the planet because they are typically kept only for dogfighting or as guard or attack dogs, forced to endure a miserable life at the end of a chain. They are typically trained with violence and neglected, making them fearful and defensive. Many pit bull-type dogs also endure painful physical mutilations, such as ear cropping – an

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS
INDIA

PETA India
PO Box 28260
Juhu, Mumbai
Maharashtra 400049
022 40727382

Info@petaindia.org
PETAIndia.com

Entities:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)

Registered Office:
F-110, First Floor, Jagdamba Tower
Plot No 13, Community Centre
Preet Vihar, New Delhi
Delhi 110092

CIN: U74899DL2000NPL103217

illegal process that involves cutting part of a dog's ears to try to prevent another dog from grabbing them during a fight.

Please find footage that Fauna Police shared with PETA India of illegal dogfights held in India (<https://shorturl.at/1aQ2z>). We are also including screenshots of dogfights and their effect on dogs (**Annexure 5**).

The Union Territory of Chandigarh has recently banned the keeping, breeding and harbouring of certain pit bull-like dog breeds bred for aggression and fighting (**Annexure 6**). The State of Goa is finalising prohibitions on the breeding, selling, and keeping of pit bull-like dog breeds, known for their aggression and propensity to attack (**Annexure 7**). The Jharkhand government has recently banned the keeping, selling, and breeding of pit bulls, Rottweilers, and certain other foreign breeds (**Annexure 8**). Previously, several municipal corporations implemented rules regarding the keeping of pit bulls and Rottweilers within city limits (**Annexures 9, 10, 11, and 12**).

In Delhi, both civic bodies – **NDMC and MCD can formulate bye-laws under Section 388(1)(G) of the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994 (NDMC Act, 1994), and Section 481(I) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 (DMC Act, 1957)**, to promote public safety by prohibiting the suggested dog breeds. Such a policy should feature:

- **Prohibit breeding, sale and keeping of dog breeds primarily used for fighting and attacks:**
by mandating the sterilisation and registration of dogs already in homes and banning any further trade or ownership of such breeds. Under **Sections 11(I), 12(z), and 327(1)(b) of the NDMC Act, 1994, and Sections 42 (I), 43(za), and 417(1)(b) of the DMC Act, 1957**, both NDMC and MCD are respectively empowered to *inter alia* regulate and / or prohibit the breeding, keeping, and sale of dog breeds bred for aggression and attack in view of the potential risks to public safety.
- **Enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop) Rules, 2018, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rules, 2017:** A crackdown on unregistered pet shops and breeders is necessary to stop illegal sales and to enforce any directions to control the breeding and sale of pit bull-type dog breeds. Pet shops and breeders must be duly registered under the law. **Additionally, Section 327(1)(b) of the NDMC Act, 1994 and Section 417(1)(b) of the DMC Act, 1957 allow both authorities to deny licences for activities considered dangerous to life, health, or property—criteria clearly met by the keeping and breeding of aggressive dog breeds.**
- **Promotion of adoption of community dogs:** An estimated 10 lakh dogs roam Delhi's roads, waiting for good homes. Encouraging the adoption of dogs from animal shelters over the purchase of foreign breeds must be a vital part of any new policy. It would help animal shelters focus on

reducing the number of community animals who suffer on roads and help prevent dog-human conflicts and should be encouraged alongside the sterilisation of all companion and community dogs and cats.

Given the urgency of the situation, we request your immediate intervention by directing the MCD Commissioner Shri Ashwini Kumar, IAS, and the NDMC Chairperson Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS, to enact a policy prohibiting keeping, breeding, or selling foreign dog breeds bred for aggression and fighting in Delhi. This would offer the best possible protection for dogs and humans.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at ShauryaA@petaindia.org or on +91 7303787382. We stand ready to offer more information, research, or any other aid necessary to advance this noble cause.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaurya', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shaurya Agrawal
Advocacy Associate
PETA India