

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
VETERINARY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
(DOG CONTROL UNIT)

**GUIDELINES- With Respect to Pet & Street dogs, Community Animal Feeder/
Care giver, Residents Welfare Associations and Apartment Owner Associations,
Educational Institutions / Tech parks / Public Institutions.**

In the matter of Animal Welfare Board of India Vs. A. Nagraja and Others (SLP NO.1168 of 2007) along with other Petitions, the Supreme Court has ordered that it is the responsibility of Central Government, State and Union Territories (the Government) to ensure all the animals and birds have access to food, shelter, medicine and a safe space to thrive.

Various circulars have been issued for the benefit of these animals and birds by the Animal Welfare Board of India (hereinafter referred to as “AWBI”) dated 14.08.2020 (No.9-2 /2015-16/PCA), Pet Dog circular dated 26.02.2015, Assignment of Feeding Spot Circular No.6-2 /2021/PCA Dt.03.03.2001, Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 under the Prevention & Cruelty to Animal Act,1960, and harassing of citizen for feeding street dogs and cats, hereinafter referred to as “**Community Animals**”, being a punishable offence. Community animal pertains to street animal more specifically in the neighbourhood.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation is a statutory body which functions as per the provisions laid down in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888. Section 191A of the said Act, makes it mandatory to pay taxes for all the dogs kept within the jurisdiction of Brihanmumbai and Section 191B provides for granting of license to the owner of a dog or a person in charge of a dog who has paid the taxes levied on such dog.

These guidelines are being issued in line with Animal Welfare Board of India guidelines dated 26th February, 2015, Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2023 and various circulars issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India with respect to the pet dogs, cats and street dogs. The number of people keeping dogs as household companions is increasing. Even the animal lovers /activists are showing compassion towards the street dogs by feeding them, providing veterinary and other support. Conflict may sometimes occur between the pet owners and the care-givers of street dogs on the one hand, and Resident Welfare Association (RWAs) and Apartment Owners Association (AOAs) on the other hand and hence it is necessary to frame these guidelines.

Our country endorses the virtues of ahimsa and non violence and these doctrines have always enabled people to peacefully co-exist with animals. Moreover the duty to show compassion to all living creatures is a fundamental duty as provided under the Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution of India upon all citizens of this country. Even the law of the land protects the rights of non-humans.

All these points deserve consideration, and everyone is equal in the eyes of the law. The Solution therefore lies in recognizing the same, and treating differing points of view, and differing life-styles with respect. These guidelines aim in achieving the aforesaid.

Sd/-13/12/2024	Sd/-13/01/2025	Sd /-18/02/2025	Sd/- 20/032025
GENERAL MANAGER DEONAR ABATTOIR	DMC (SPECIAL)	AMC (CITY)	MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
VETERINARY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
(DOG CONTROL UNIT)

GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY ANIMAL FEEDER / CARE GIVER

In the matter of Animal Welfare Board of India Vs. A. Nagraja and Others (SLP NO.1168 of 2007) along with other Petitions, the Supreme Court has ordered that it is the responsibility of Central Government, State and Union Territories (the Government) to ensure all the animals and birds have access to food, shelter, medicine and a safe space to thrive.

Various circulars have been issued for the benefit of these animals and birds by the Animal Welfare Board of India (hereinafter referred to as “AWBI”) dated 14.08.2020 (No.9-2 /2015-16/PCA), Pet Dog circular dated 26.02.2015, Assignment of Feeding Spot Circular No.6-2 /2021/PCA Dt.03.03.2001, Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 under the Prevention & Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960, and harassing of citizen for feeding street dogs and cats, hereinafter referred to as “**Community Animals**”, being a punishable offence. Community animals pertain to street animals more specifically in the neighbourhood.

1. There are many people in India who feed stray and ownerless dogs/cats. Those who feed the Street dogs/ cats are advised to participate in their sterilization and yearly vaccination too, since they win the trust of the dogs/cats through feeding them.
2. These people are advised to provide, or to assist Animal Welfare Organization in providing health care to these animals.
3. These people are advised to register themselves with Animal Welfare Board of India as 'Colony Animal Care Taker' to serve better to the community animals.
4. These Care-givers are advised not to feed street dogs close to the residences. Avoid feeding street dogs/cats immediately adjacent to areas such as children's play area, places used by people for walking, or places which are otherwise crowded.
5. Feeder to ensure that feeding must not be done in a manner that contributes to littering or dirtying any feeding site.

6. Care-givers are advised to ensure that the area/site of feeding is cleaned after feeding is over.
7. Care-givers are advised to keep the sterilization and vaccination status of the dogs/cats they are feeding and caring for, updated and readily accessible. Care-givers shall make these accessible by sharing the same with their resident's welfare associations or other residents, which will generate positivity, and greater acceptability of the dogs.
8. Care-givers cannot control the defecation habits of the strays. However, they are advised to participate in other solutions for maintaining cleanliness.
9. Care-givers must ensure that the feeding spots are far from children play areas, garden entry and exit points, staircases and should be in an area which is least frequented by children and/or senior citizens. The Care-givers must ensure that they get designated timings fixed from RWAs or AOAs depending on the movement of children and senior citizens.
10. Designated feeder shall ensure that there is no littering at the feeding location. They must also ensure that there is no violation of guidelines framed by RWAs or AOAs.
11. Designated feeders are allowed to volunteer to help vaccinate the dogs/cats and to assist the animal birth control programme by helping catch and release the animals.
12. Designated feeding spot must be away from public streets, pedestrian paths as well as foot paths which are used regularly by people for commuting.
13. Feeding spot should be in secluded areas, infrequently used service lanes and areas adjacent to the boundary walls of houses that are not used as passage.
14. Feeding must be hygienic with no feeding of raw or uncooked meat; the feeders must ensure that the feeding is done as per the requirements of these dogs/cats.
15. Care-givers must ensure that no littering or dirtying is caused during feeding process.
16. No person can restrict another from feeding dogs/cats unless it is causing harm to them. Feeder must ensure that the animals are vaccinated and sterilized as may be required.
17. It is the responsibility of community residents to get their street dog/cat population sterilized through a local Animal Birth Control NGO engaged in dog/cat sterilization.
18. Care-givers to use hygienic feeding procedures when feeding strays in public.
19. Care-givers are advised to feed the dogs/cats late at night or early in the morning when there are less vehicle movements and also limited human movements.
20. Feeding should be done away from densely populated places and caretaker are recommended not to feed street dogs near their own homes or places immediately adjacent to location such as children play area and areas used by public for walking.
21. Care-givers/feeders to maintain track of dog sterilization and communicate that

information with residents of local body. Imparting education to neighbors should be a continuous effort.

22. Feeders are advised to provide specific dog/cat food and the same should be as per their requirements. Feeders must strictly avoid feeding foods or beverages which are not meant for these dogs/cats.
23. Feeders/Care-givers are advised to use biodegradable/disposable cutlery to serve stray dogs. After feeding, they must ensure to dispose-off such cutlery in the nearby bins. Feeders can also use newspapers but it must be ensured that the same is collected and disposed properly.
24. Feeders must ensure that the dogs/cats are kept in good health.
25. Feeders must also ensure dogs/cats shall not become reliant on the feeders for food. Feeders must maintain a schedule for feeding these dogs/cats to avoid over feeding. Feeders must understand that goal of feeding stray dogs is to make them friendly so that they are easier to catch for spay/neuter operation, easy to handle when they are sick or injured, and also for the yearly anti rabies vaccination.
26. Feeders are advised to avoid feeding two stray dog packs at the same time.
27. In case of pet license issues or any other welfare related issues and/or grievances, party can reach BMC on Helpline No.- **9635839888** or visit <https://vhd.mcgm.gov.in/>

Sd/-13/12/2024

**GENERAL MANAGER
DEONAR ABATTOIR**

Sd/-13/01/2025

**DMC
(SPECIAL)**

Sd /-18/02/2025

AMC (CITY)

Sd/- 20/03/2025

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
VETERINARY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
(DOG CONTROL UNIT)

GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTS WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS,
APARTMENT OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS, ETC

In the matter of Animal Welfare Board of India Vs. A. Nagraja and Others (SLP NO.1168 of 2007) along with other Petitions, the Supreme Court has ordered that it is the responsibility of Central Government, State and Union Territories (the Government) to ensure all the animals and birds have access to food, shelter, medicine and a safe space to thrive.

Various circulars have been issued for the benefit of these animals and birds by the Animal Welfare Board of India (hereinafter referred to as “**AWBI**”) dated 14.08.2020 (No.9-2 /2015-16/PCA), Pet Dog circular dated 26.02.2015, Assignment of Feeding Spot Circular No.6-2 /2021/PCA Dt.03.03.2001, Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 under the Prevention & Cruelty to Animal Act,1960, and harassing of citizen for feeding street dogs and cats, hereinafter referred to as “**Community Animals**”, being a punishable offence. Community animals pertain to street animals more specifically in the neighbourhood.

I) WITH RESPECT TO PET DOGS & PET OWNING RESIDENTS:-

1. Residents' Welfare Associations and Apartment Owners Associations (together referred as Associations) cannot legally introduce any sort of Ban on keeping of Pet dogs/cats. Both the Associations cannot insist that 'Small Sized' dogs are acceptable and 'Large sized' dog are not or fix any specifications relating to dogs/cats.
2. The Associations cannot cite dog barking as a valid and compelling reason for any proposed ban or restriction.
3. Obtaining consensus, or even if the majority of residents and occupiers want it, a 'Ban' cannot be legally introduced on the keeping of pet dogs.
4. If the residents or occupiers that have pets are not violating any municipal or other laws, it is not permissible for Associations to object to their having pets as companions.
5. The general body cannot frame bye-laws or amend them in a manner that is at

variance with the laws of the country. Even by a complete majority, a general body cannot adopt an illegality.

6. The Associations, however, may insist for pet dog license issued by BMC and may obtain consensus in this regards as keeping of pet dog without license is illegal.
7. Trying to ban pets or limit their number, is against the fundamental freedom guaranteed to the citizens of India, i.e. the freedom to choose the life they wish to live, which includes facets such as living with or without companion animals. The Associations are bound to follow the said rule.
8. The Associations cannot disallow the owners of the pets from using the lifts/elevators in a building. No charges can be imposed by the Associations for such use.
9. The Associations cannot debar anyone from using lifts or elevators for a pet dog. The Associations are open to advise usage of alternate Lifts if there is more than one working lift or elevator in a building which is conveniently accessible.
10. Seeking to ban pets from gardens or parks is short-sighted. Firstly, you may or may not have any manner of right over the garden or park in question. Secondly, pets that are not exercised properly may exhibit aggressive conduct in frustration, and that cannot contribute to the benefit of the residents.
11. It is advisable to arrive by consensus and fix timings acceptable to all residents for the owners to take their pets for walk without inconvenience to other residents. These timings can then be intimated to the general body.
12. Intimidating a pet owner into 'giving up' or 'abandoning' a pet, will actually lead to violation of law, and may well be aggravating the menace of ownerless animals on the street, that are not accustomed to living on the street. It may also lead to accidents, injuries and deaths. Please also bear in mind that intimidation is an offense in law.

II) WITH RESPECT TO STREET DOGS:-

13. Beating and driving away street dogs, is 'NOT ALLOWED'. Animal Birth control and release back into same locality/territory, is ALLOWED.
14. As per Indian law, street dogs (i.e. stray dogs) cannot be beaten or driven away or killed. They can merely be sterilized in the manner envisaged in the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2023, vaccinated, and then returned back to their original locations. For the area-wise sterilization program, appropriate mandates shall be

followed. Dogs have to be returned back to their original habitat after sterilization / immunization.

15. It is important to understand the rationale behind releasing the street dog at the same locality /territories, as the Dogs, being territorial in nature, tend to fight others dogs, and keep them from entering their territories, and in this manner, the dog population in each territory can be stabilized.
16. There is no law that prohibits the feeding of street animals. Citizens who choose to do so are in fact performing a duty cast upon them by the Constitution of India- of showing compassion to all living creatures. Hon'ble Courts have upheld street dog feeding since the same reduces human animal conflict and suspicion, and facilitates animal birth control (by making dog catching easier).
17. Animal cruelty is an offence- under Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, and under Sections 325 of BNS, it is a punishable offence with imprisonment and fines.
18. Any attempts to interfere with, or harass anyone who chooses to look after and feed community dogs, may amount to a grave offence of criminal intimidation and shall be punishable as provided under law.
19. Any aggression or hostility that the dogs may be subjected to may render them aggressive, and hostile to humans. They may then resort to snapping and biting in self-defence. If the same happens, the human aggressors shall be the only ones to blame.
20. Designated area for feeding and other activities in relation to the pets must be indicated by a signboard with specified timing slots.
21. Although feeding of street dogs may lead to some inconvenience for residents, especially those who do not like dogs, such feeding is necessary to ensure that the animals do not become aggressive due to hunger and further to ensure that the dogs can more easily be caught for sterilization.
22. It is the responsibility of the Associations or local body's to make necessary arrangements for feeding of common animals residing in the premises or that area involving the person residing in that area or premises, as the case may be, who feeds those animal or intend to feed those animals and provide care to street animals as a compassionate gesture.
23. Where there is conflict between the Associations and animal care giver or other residents an Animal Welfare Committee shall be formed as per sub rule (2) of rule 20 of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023. The decision of the committee shall

- be final with regard to fixing of the feeding spot and the committee may also nominate person from amongst the designated colony caretaker by the board to feed those animals in that designated area.
24. To set a feeding time, preferably before 7.00 AM or after 5.00 PM and make sure the animal is given proper food every day. Breaking the habit could be disastrous since the stray dogs would continue to wait for the feeder despite his/her absence.
25. It is illegal for a housing society to pass pet bye laws that disallow pets. However, society can make and enforce rules and regulations of keeping dogs to ensure the welfare of pet as well as for safeguarding the interest of the residents. Efforts must be made to create time slots, when the pets can access gardens, parks and grounds. Pets need to be vaccinated and Owners must keep vaccination records. Organize meet ups and educate residents on animals especially strays. Individuals below 18 years shall be accompanied with parents or elders while handling the pets
26. For any kind of queries / information required and to report dog bite incidents or to request vaccination of stray dogs and cats against rabies/ neutering; pet license for dogs or any other animal welfare related issues please log on to <https://vhd.mcgm.gov.in/register-grievance>
27. In case of conflict please refer to the following documents.
- a) Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960
 - b) Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023
 - c) Pet dog circular dated 26.02.2015 by AWBI.
28. In case of pet license issues or any other welfare related issues and/or grievances, party can reach BMC on Helpline No.- **9635839888** or Log on to <https://vhd.mcgm.gov.in/>

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**GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS/
TECH PARKS / PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

In the matter of Animal Welfare Board of India Vs. A. Nagaraja and Others (SLP NO.1168 of 2007) along with other Petitions, the Supreme Court has ordered that it is the responsibility of Central Government, State and Union Territories (the Government) to ensure all the animals and birds have access to food, shelter, medicine and a safe space to thrive.

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Fostering respect to nature & its creations following eco friendly practices & co-existence is the only way to create a positive & sustainable society.

In line with the above, BMC is hereby publishing the below listed guidelines to facilitate feeding of community animals in the premises of educational institutions / public institutions / facility centres as it is mandatory for the institutions to implement Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, to avoid any form of cruelty to animals.

1. Community animals (dogs / cats) can only be neutered and vaccinated, but cannot be relocated from their original place. Dogs / Cats picked from the premises must be released inside the same premises only. Institutions must take lead in coordinating with BMC to conduct these activities.
2. Institutions to make arrangements for community animals for food, clean water to drink with water bowls kept at various spots and safe space for community animals to take shelter, away from areas frequented by students, employees etc.
3. To facilitate students / staff / employee / citizens who are feeding the community animals by assigning feeding spots and fixing the timings for feeding with the help of BMC, District SPCA & Police Joint Committee.

4. Chasing dogs / cats with sticks or bouncers is illegal. Security agencies must be trained to handle dogs/cats safely as per law.
5. Appropriate advisory boards/write ups must be displayed evidently in all areas frequented by public to feed animals as per instructions and at the assigned spot only.
6. Relocation of dogs / cats, separating mother, pups, depriving community animals access to food, water or shelter, killing or maiming them and/or any other act that can cause them distress is illegal and a punishable offence and shall be subjected to prosecution as per law.
7. Appropriate awareness and caution be taken while handling these animals. Appropriate training must be provided on a quarterly basis to increase compassion towards animals.
8. In case of pet license issues or any other welfare related issues and/or grievances, party can reach BMC on Helpline No. - **9635839888** or Log on to <https://vhd.mcgm.gov.in/>

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GUIDELINES FOR PET OWNERS

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It is mandatory for the pet dog owners to register their dog with BMC and get appropriate license issued as per provision of Section 191B of the MMC Act, 1888 under Section 191 B which is mandatory. Keeping dogs without license is illegal.

1. It is mandatory for Pet Owners to abide by the terms and conditions of the BMC license and various guidelines, rules and circulars issued by AWBI.
2. It is advised to Pet Owners to proactively declare the number of Pets they have to RWAs/AOAs with license copy issued by BMC.
3. Pet owners are advised to ensure that Pets are not a source of nuisance to others. In doing so they may, however, distinguish between reasonable and unreasonable, and lawful or unlawful claims as to their pets being a source of one's nuisance and no amount of pressure should lead to an abandonment of a pet animal; such conduct will lead to violation of Law.
4. Barking is a natural form of expression for a dog and must be tolerated in a Society. However incessant barking can disturb neighbours. Hence, Pet owners are advised to make every effort to keep their dog quiet, particularly during night hours.
5. Pet owners are advised to ensure that their Pets are healthy and clean. Adequate health care and regular vaccination needs to be ensured. Owners who fail to

adhere to these important aspects shall be penalised as per law for negligence.

6. Owners of Pets shall be responsible for their pet's de-worming, immunization and sterilization.
7. Pet owners or their care- givers or dog walkers must ensure that when their pet defecates in public premises, the same is cleaned up by them.
8. Pet owners are advised to take initiative to discuss with their RWA's ways and means to dispose-off pet excreta. For instance pet corners can be designated in which pets can be trained / encouraged to relieve themselves; and a corner of the complex /park can be designated as the area where pet poop can be collected and deposited and composted using sawdust, etc. Such appropriate conduct may generate positivity and greater acceptability of pet dogs and even street dogs. However, it is clarified that it is for each residential community and complex to decide which method works best for them, and the solutions cannot be imposed on anybody.
9. Leashing of pets in public places is advisable. Leashing of dogs assures passersby that they are safe and makes them more comfortable when walking in the vicinity of an owner with his/her pet dog on a leash. Leashing also ensures the safety of the pet from being run over by vehicles on streets, or worse still, being the cause of accidents.
10. Pet owners cannot be debarred by Residents' Welfare Associations or Apartment Owners' Associations for using lifts or elevators for their dogs, however the Pet owners cannot object to use alternate lifts if the same is available.
11. Children below 18 years of age must not be allowed to walk or handle pets in public spaces without adult supervision.
12. Pet owners are urged to sterilize their pets to avoid increase in the dog population in the local area.
13. Pet owners are responsible to obey certain restrictions such as cleaning up after their pets poops in public location or not letting their dog run loose in public places while keeping in mind the general population.
14. Pet owners are advised to train his/her pet and familiarize their pets to make sure the pet knows the surrounding where the owners resides in and does not harm a stranger or cause a nuisance.
15. Pet owners must vaccinate pet dogs/cats on time and must be renewed every year. To provide appropriate medication in case pet is suffering from illness.
16. Pet owners are advised to supervise their pets when in common spaces. Owners

- are advised to keep their pet on leash when they take them out for a walk or when they are playing around children to ensure safety. Pet owners to ensure that their pet is not aggressive or hostile towards strays or other animals in the vicinity.
17. No puppies / kittens are to be purchased below 8 weeks of age and are fully weaned Puppies / Kittens to be purchased from registered pet shops or breeders only.
 18. Pet Owners to follow the rules of society before renting or buying a place, make it a point to go through society byelaws and advisories which are in consonance with the central rules/ directions of Hon'ble High Courts /Supreme Court and Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.
 19. Pet Owners to clean up after their furry pal, make sure their pet is toilet trained and there are no leftovers once the pet has finished defecating.
 20. Pet Owners need to be responsible and must get the required BMC license to keep a dog. Pet owners must keep the society up to date about his/her pet's license, vaccinations etc.
 21. Pet owners can purchase a pedigree dog from a breeder or pet shop registered with AWBI as per Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog breeding & marketing) Rules, 2017 & Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop) Rules, 2018.
 22. In case of pet license issues or any other welfare related issues and/or grievances, party can reach BMC on Helpline No.- **9635839888** or Log on to <https://vhd.mcgm.gov.in/>

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