

Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023

April 22, 2023

In news— The Central Government has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 vide G.S.R 193(E) dated 10th March, 2023 under Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 and after superseding the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001.

Key rules-

- **They purportedly respond to three stimuli:** strays cannot be relocated, as the Supreme Court of India has held; must not face cruelty; and must be cared for.
- The 2023 Rules require strays to be caught, vaccinated, neutered, and released back.
- The 2023 Rules also ask residents' welfare associations to care for stray dogs and feed them away from the children and the elderly, at fixed intervals. This could further the dogs' homelessness, and thus susceptibility to disease, injury, and discomfort.
- In the process, the Rules also transform "stray dogs" into a new class of "community animals".
- **The 2023 Rules, superseding the ABC (Dog) Rules, 2001, say that the birth control programmes for sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs** are to be carried out by the respective local bodies/ municipalities/ municipal corporations and panchayats.
- The Municipal Corporations need to implement the ABC and Anti Rabies Program jointly.
- The Rules also provides the guidelines how to deal with the human and stray dog conflicts without relocating the dogs in an area.
- One of the requirements under the Rule is that the Animal Birth Control Programme needs to be carried out by the Animal Welfare Board of India(AWBI) recognized

organization specifically recognised for Animal Birth Control programme.

SALIENT POINTS OF ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL RULES

➤ Local authority is responsible for **deworming, vaccination, and sterilization of stray dogs**

➤ Local authority to ensure adequate facilities at each animal birth control centre

➤ Resident welfare associations/Apartment owner association or local body representatives are responsible for providing necessary arrangements for feeding community animals and establishing methods for conflict resolution between animal caregivers and RWAs/AOAs or other residents

➤ Reasons for capturing stray dogs and guidelines for their sterilization, immunization and release using humane methods



➤ **Sterilization and immunization of domestic or feral cats**

➤ Guidelines for resolving complaints related to **dog bites or rabid dogs**

➤ Progress reports on capturing, sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs to be submitted on a monthly and annual basis

Note:

- According to the World Health Organization, 36% of the world's and 65% of Southeast Asia's rabies deaths happen in India.
- The National Rabies Control Programme has recorded 6,644 clinically suspected cases and deaths of human rabies in 2012-22.
- The Animal Birth Control Rules 2001 laid down the law for the only viable dog population management mechanism but its implementation was scanty and monitoring was altogether absent over two decades.