



**THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

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Leh, Ladakh – 194101

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in  
Suo Moto Writ Petition (Civil) No. 5 of 2025 titled "City Hounded by Strays,  
Kids Pay Price" \_reg.**

The undersigned is directed to invite attention of all Administrative Secretaries/HoDs to the Order dated: 07.11.2025 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, issued in continuation of its earlier order dated: 22.08.2025, regarding urgent measures to curb the menace of stray dog attacks within institutional areas and public premises. The Hon'ble court has emphasised safeguarding the fundamental right to life and safety of citizens-particularly children, students, patients and sportspersons while ensuring strict compliance with the provisions of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued comprehensive directions to all States/UTs to ensure safety within institutional premises, hospitals, educational institutions, stadiums, bus stands/depots, railway premises and other public establishments. Key directions include:

1. Securing institutional premises with proper fencing, gates and structural measures to prevent entry of stray dogs (to be completed preferably within 8 weeks).
2. Appointment of a Nodal Officer in each institution responsible for cleanliness and prevention of stray dog entry.
3. Mandatory display of the Nodal Officer's details and coordination with local municipal authorities.
4. Quarterly inspections by local bodies to ensure no stray dog lives/roams within institutional premises.
5. Immediate removal and shifting of stray dogs found inside institutional premises for sterilization/vaccination as per ABC Rules.
6. Maintenance of adequate stock of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin in all Government and private hospitals.
7. Conduct of awareness programmes by educational institutions on preventive behaviour, first aid, and reporting of stray dog bites.
8. Deployment of security/ground staff in stadiums and sports complexes to prevent stray dog entry.
9. Ensuring proper waste management at bus stands, depots and railway stations to discourage habitation/movement of stray dogs.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further directed that Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs shall file compliance affidavits detailing:

- i. Steps taken to secure educational, health, transport and sports premises;
- ii. Mechanisms established for regular oversight, inspection and reporting;
- iii. Availability of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin in Government medical facilities.

In view of the above directions, all Departments/Authorities including Education, Health, Housing & Urban Development, Animal Husbandry, Transport etc. are requested to take immediate necessary action to ensure strict compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 07.11.2025 and submit compliance report to the Housing and Urban Development Department, so that a consolidated compliance report/affidavit may be prepared and filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court within stipulated period of eight (8) weeks. *(Copy of order dated 07.11.2025 is enclosed).*

**Sd/-**

*(Qureshi Tariq Mahmood)*

**Consultant/Secretary,**

**Department of Law & Justice**

***Copy for information and necessary action to the:***

- 1. Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, UT of Ladakh.***
- 2. All Administrative Secretaries, UT of Ladakh.***
- 3. Dy. Commissioner Leh/Kargil, UT of Ladakh.***
- 4. All HoDs, UT of Ladakh.***
- 5. OSD to the Chief Secretary, UT of Ladakh for kind information of the Chief Secretary.***

**No.: Secy / L&J / UTL / 2025 / 2368-65**

**Dated: 21.11.2025**

***Copy also to:***

- 1. Under Secretary, Department of Information and Public Relations, UT of Ladakh.***

**STANZIN  
LADOL**

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*(Stanzin Ladol)*

**Public Law Officer,**

**Department of Law & Justice**



**REPORTABLE**  
**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**  
**INHERENT/CIVIL ORIGINAL/**  
**EXTRAORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) NO(S). 5 OF 2025**

**IN RE: “CITY HOUNDED BY STRAYS, KIDS PAY  
PRICE”**

**WITH**

**SLP(CIVIL) NO(S). 14763 OF 2024**

**SLP(CIVIL) NO(S). 17623 OF 2025**

**WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) NO(S). 784 OF 2025**

**SLP(CIVIL) NO(S). \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2025**  
**(Diary No. 45707 OF 2025)**

**T.C. (CIVIL) NO. 140 OF 2025**

**CONTEMPT PETITION (C) NO(S). 749 OF 2025 IN**  
**SLP(CIVIL) NO(S). 14763 OF 2024**

**O R D E R**

**Mehta, J.**

1. This Court, *vide* order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2025, after considering the submissions made on behalf of the parties and the material placed on record, had

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SONIA BHADIN  
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Reason: 

supplemented, modified, and clarified the earlier directions issued *vide* order dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2025.

**2.** The directions contained in the order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2025, *inter alia*, mandated the municipal authorities to continue the exercise of capturing, sterilising, deworming, and vaccinating stray dogs in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, while permitting the release of sterilised and immunised dogs to the same localities from which they were picked up, except those infected with or suspected to be infected with rabies and those exhibiting aggressive behaviour. The Court further directed the creation of designated feeding zones for stray dogs, establishment of municipal helplines for reporting violations, and the filing of comprehensive compliance affidavits by the respective municipal authorities.

**3.** The aforesaid directions were extended to all States and Union Territories, and the Registry was directed to seek information from the Registrar Generals of the High Courts with respect to similar matters pending before them, so that a uniform and

coherent approach to the menace of stray dogs could be evolved across the country.

**4.** The present order shall address three distinct issues, which are being dealt with in separate parts for clarity and convenience. **Part I** pertains to the compliance affidavits filed by the States and Union Territories pursuant to this Court's earlier directions and the summary report prepared by the learned Amicus Curiae, Shri Gaurav Agrawal. **Part II** concerns the modification, application and implementation of the directions issued by the High Court of Judicature for Rajasthan at Jodhpur in D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 14726 of 2025. **Part III** concerns the issuance of further directions in respect of institutional areas, including educational establishments, hospitals, sports complexes, and other public spaces such as railway stations and bus depots, where incidents of dog-bite attacks continue to be reported with alarming frequency, raising a cause of grave concern and requiring emergent remedial measures.

**PART I: Compliance Affidavits filed by States and  
UTs and Summary prepared by *Amicus Curiae***

5. Pursuant to the direction contained in paragraph 33(i) of the order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2025 and the subsequent order dated 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2025, all States and all Union Territories, except the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, have submitted their respective compliance affidavits before this Court. The learned *amicus curiae*, Shri Gaurav Agrawal, has been requested *vide* order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2025, to examine the said affidavits and to place before this Court a concise summary of the affidavits filed by the States and Union Territories in purported compliance with the directions issued by this Court.

6. In compliance of the order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2025, the learned *amicus curiae*, Shri Gaurav Agrawal, has made a herculean effort and has filed a report summarising the compliance affidavits submitted by the respective States and Union Territories. The report highlights several grave deficiencies and shortcomings in the information furnished by certain States and Union Territories, as

well as areas where compliance with the directions issued by this Court has either not been effected or remains incomplete. The learned *amicus curiae* has also tendered constructive suggestions and recommendations to ensure effective and uniform implementation of this Court's orders across jurisdictions.

**7.** The report submitted by the learned Amicus Curiae, Shri Gaurav Agrawal, is taken on record and shall form part of this Order. The Registry is directed to annex the same as **Schedule I**. The contents of the said report shall be read as part and parcel of this order for all purposes. The States and Union Territories shall peruse the report and take appropriate steps to address the deficiencies and shortcomings pointed out therein. Each State and Union Territory shall file comprehensive additional affidavits before the next date of hearing, specifically indicating the remedial measures undertaken to ensure full compliance with this Court's directions and to rectify the lapses highlighted in the report of the learned *amicus curiae*. Any lethargy in this regard shall be viewed seriously.

**PART II: Modification, Application and  
Implementation of the Directions issued by High  
Court of for Rajasthan at Jodhpur in D.B. Civil  
Writ Petition No. 14726 of 2025.**

**8.** It is a matter of grave and continuing public concern that accidents caused by cattle and other stray animals on public roads and highways have become alarmingly frequent across the country. Such incidents, often resulting in loss of human life, grievous injuries, and damage to property, are not isolated events but symptomatic of a larger failure on the part of the administrative authorities entrusted with public safety. The uncontrolled presence of cattle and stray animals on National Highways, National Expressways, and State Highways, constitutes a serious and avoidable threat, particularly during night-time or in high-speed zones.

**9.** This Court cannot remain unmindful of the preventable nature of these accidents, which not only reflect administrative indifference but also undermine the constitutional guarantee of the right to life and safety under Article 21. The need for immediate, coordinated, and sustained action by all



concerned agencies, i.e., municipal authorities, road and transport departments, public works departments and highway authorities, cannot be overstated.

**10.** Accordingly, this Court issues the following directions:

**A.** The directions issued by the **High Court of Rajasthan at Jodhpur in D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 14726 of 2025 *vide* order dated 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**, are hereby reaffirmed, to the extent that the municipal authorities, road and transport department/Public Works Department of all the States and Union Territories and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) shall ensure the removal of all cattle and other stray animals from the State Highways, National Highways, and National Expressways falling within their respective jurisdictions.

**B.** The concerned authorities, i.e., the municipal authorities, the road and transport department/Public Works Department of all the States and Union Territories and the National Highways Authority of India shall undertake a joint, coordinated drive to identify stretches of

highways and expressways where stray cattle or animals are frequently found, and shall take immediate steps for their removal and relocation to designated shelters. The cattle and other stray animals so picked up shall be kept in appropriate shelters or *Gaushalas*/cattle pounds, as the case may be, and provided with all necessary food, water, and veterinary care, in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023.

- C.** Each authority shall constitute dedicated highway patrol teams and/or assign existing road-safety units for continuous surveillance and immediate response to reports of stray cattle or other animals obstructing the roadways. Such patrols shall function on a 24x7 basis and coordinate with local police stations, veterinary officers, and municipal authorities/Panchayati Raj institutions.
- D.** All National Highways, State Highways, and National Expressways shall have prominently displayed helpline numbers at regular intervals, enabling commuters to promptly report the presence of stray animals or accidents caused

thereby. These helplines shall be linked to the control rooms of the local police, National Highways Authority of India, and district administration for real-time redressal and monitoring.

**E.** The Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, together with the Chairperson, National Highways Authority of India, shall ensure strict enforcement of these directions through appropriate administrative orders and field-level monitoring. They shall hold the concerned officers personally accountable for lapses or recurring incidents in their respective jurisdictions.

**F.** The aforesaid directions shall be implemented uniformly across India, and the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories; Chairperson, National Highways Authority of India; and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Union of India shall file status-cum-compliance affidavits within a period of eight weeks from today, indicating:

- i.** the mechanism established for removal and sheltering of stray animals from highways;
- ii.** the constitution and functioning of patrol teams; and

- iii. the operational status of helpline facilities and installation of sign boards displaying helpline numbers.

11. The Registry shall forthwith implead the National Highways Authority of India through its Chairperson.

**PART III: Directions regarding Institutional Areas, i.e., educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands/depots and railway stations**

12. In the interregnum, this Court has been apprised through various news reports and media accounts of disturbing increase in dog-bite incidents within the premises of educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands/depots (including Inter-State Bus Terminals) and railway stations, generically speaking, institutional areas. Instances of children being attacked in school campuses, patients and attendants being bitten within hospital compounds, athletes as well as officials being attacked by stray dogs inside sports stadiums and passengers/travellers being attacked

by stray dogs at bus stands/depots and railway stations, have come to the notice of this Court.

**13.** The recurrence of such incidents, particularly within institutional spaces meant for learning, healing, and recreation, reflects not only administrative apathy but also a systemic failure to secure these premises from preventable hazards. The situation calls for immediate judicial intervention to safeguard the fundamental right to life and safety of citizens, especially children, patients, and sportspersons, under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

**14.** After Independence, despite significant advances in public health, India continues to report one of the world's highest statistics of rabies-related mortality. Scientific assessments, including those conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), have estimated that a large ratio of animal related deaths annually in India were attributable to rabies, with over 90% of human cases resulting from bites inflicted by domestic or stray dogs. The brunt of this menace has been borne by children, elderly people

and economically weaker sections who in addition of being vulnerable, also lack timely access to post-exposure prophylaxis.

**15.** Recognising the need for a humane yet effective framework, the Government of India, in exercise of its powers under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, promulgated the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001, subsequently amended and supplemented from time to time. These Rules established the **Capture-Sterilize-Vaccinate-Release (CSV) model** as the principal method for controlling the stray dog population, thereby prohibiting indiscriminate culling of stray dogs and mandating municipal authorities to manage sterilisation, vaccination, and sheltering in coordination with animal welfare organisations. However, the implementation of these Rules has been ineffective, to say the least, across jurisdictions and the persistence of stray dog population has continued to imperil public safety in many parts of the country.

**16.** It has also been brought to the notice of this Court through a report published by NDTV<sup>1</sup>, that even foreign nationals visiting India are falling prey to unprovoked stray dog attacks. In one such incident which took place in Bengaluru, a Welsh entrepreneur was bitten by a stray dog during a morning run. This incident underscores that the menace is neither confined to rural or densely populated localities nor limited to vulnerable citizens, but has assumed proportions that affect public safety, tourism, and the image of the country in the global perspective.

**17.** In addition, particular vulnerability has been observed in institutional spaces such as educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands/depots (including Inter-State Bus Terminals) and railway stations. These facilities/places, by virtue of their open design, congregation of persons and frequent availability of edible waste, provide favourable conditions for the habitation of free-roaming stray dogs. Reports from across India have

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<sup>1</sup> **Welsh Entrepreneur Bitten by Stray Dog During Run in Bengaluru: 'Ask Dogesh Bhai...'; LINK:** <https://www.ndtv.com/offbeat/welsh-entrepreneur-bitten-by-stray-dog-during-run-in-bengaluru-ask-dogesh-bhai-9489758/amp/1>.

demonstrated that such premises have repeatedly become scenes of dog-bite incidents, causing injuries to students, patients, staff and members of the public, thereby underscoring the urgent need for targeted preventive and administrative measures.

**I. Educational institutions (schools, colleges, universities, and coaching institutions with/without residential/hostel facilities)**

**18.** Educational institutions, particularly schools and colleges with open campuses, have emerged as areas of recurring dog-bite incidents. Children, due to their small stature and uninformed interaction with animals, are extra vulnerable to the same. Several reported incidents have emerged over the years, where students have sustained grievous injuries within school/college premises or adjacent playgrounds as a result of dog bites. Such cases have, in several instances, necessitated surgical reconstruction and emergency prophylactic treatment for rabies. The frequency of such incidents reflects deficiencies in institutional responsibility and municipal oversight concerning the safety of educational environments. We are informed that the



Campus of National Law School of India University, Bengaluru has a huge population of strays which threaten the safety of the students, staff and faculty members alike.

### **Incidents:**

- At a **Government Lower Primary School, Panamaram, Wayanad, Kerala**, a Class III student was bitten by a stray dog inside a classroom. The dog had given birth to pups near a wash basin in an abandoned corner of the school building (which had not been locked after vacation).<sup>2</sup>
- In **Siswal village, Hisar district, Haryana**, a stray dog entered a government primary school, bit six students, then also bit others in the village.<sup>3</sup>
- Students from college within **Bengaluru University campus** were bitten by stray dogs while on campus (Kengeri area). Two college students were hospitalised after the attack.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> **Stray dog bites student inside classroom in Wayanad school**; LINK: <https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2025/09/08/stray-dog-bites-student-in-wayanad-school.html>.

<sup>3</sup> **Stray dog bites 6 students in Hisar Village school**; LINK: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/stray-dog-bites-6-students-in-hisar-village-school/articleshow/123953280.cms>.

<sup>4</sup> **Karnataka records 2.86 lakh dog bites, 26 rabies deaths this year, report reveals**; LINK: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/karnataka/story/karnataka-dog-bites-deaths-2025-rabies-stray-dogs-supreme-court-order-delhi-ncr-data-2770508-2025-08-13>.

## **II. Hospitals and healthcare institutions**

**19.** Ironically, the very institutions entrusted with the treatment of dog-bite victims, have themselves become susceptible to the menace. In hospitals and several tertiary-care centres, patients, attendants and staff have been attacked by packs of dogs residing within hospital compounds. The problem is exacerbated by improper waste disposal practices and the presence of open areas that attract animals. In addition, the continuous inflow of dog-bite victims has strained medical resources, particularly the availability of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins, which are often in short supply.

### **Incidents:**

- At **Institute of Mental Health (IMH), Kilpauk, Chennai**, multiple patients were bitten by stray dogs in a few days.<sup>5</sup>
- At **Ernakulam General Hospital, Kochi**, a stray dog attacked five people. Four of those were inside the hospital premises, including a patient.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> **Stray dogs hound IMH patients, three bitten in three days; LINK:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/stray-dogs-hound-imh-patients-three-bitten-in-three-days/articleshow/120561697.cms>.

<sup>6</sup> **Stray dog attacks five on Ernakulam General Hospital premises; LINK:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2025/Aug/14/stray-dog-attacks-five-on-ernakulam-general-hospital-premises>.

- The NHRC took *suo motu* notice of reports of dog-bite incidents involving patients within the hospital premise at **Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC), Cuttack, Odisha**. Some patients claimed that vital procedures (chemotherapy, radiation) were delayed because of such attacks.<sup>7</sup>
- At **Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur**, a resident doctor was bitten by several stray dogs in the hospital campus. She required ICU care. There have been multiple similar incidents over preceding days.<sup>8</sup>
- In **King George's Medical University (KGMU), Lucknow**, two doctors, paramedical staff and an attendant were bitten by a stray dog on campus, outside the radiology department.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> **NHRC takes cognizance of TNIE report, issues summons to Odisha govt on stray dog menace in cancer hospital; LINK:**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2023/May/25/nhrc-takes-cognizance-of-tnie-report-issues-summons-to-odisha-govt-on-stray-dog-menace-in-cancer-ho-2578550.html>.

<sup>8</sup> **Nagpur's premier medical facility battles dog menace; woman doctor in ICU after attack; LINK:** <https://theprint.in/india/nagpurs-premier-medical-facility-battles-dog-menace-woman-doctor-in-icu-after-attack/1063457/>.

<sup>9</sup> **In Lucknow, King George's Medical University doctors among 5 injured in dog attack; LINK:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/in-lucknow-king-georges-medical-university-doctors-among-5-injured-in-dog-attack/articleshow/100171596.cms>.

### **III. Sports complexes and stadia**

**20.** Large sports venues and open recreational grounds attract free-roaming/stray dogs because they offer food (from vendors and visitors) and hiding/denning space. As cities expand, many older municipal stadia and public playgrounds have become semi-permanent habitats for dog packs. During major events the concentration of people increases the chance of human-dog interactions and when a dog feels threatened or is provoked, injuries can follow.

#### **Incidents:**

- Two foreign coaches (from Kenya and Japan) were bitten by stray dogs inside **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, during the World Para Athletics Championships, 2025**. One coach was bitten near the competition arena and the other at the warm-up track. Both were treated at the stadium first, then at Safdarjung Hospital. These incidents show that even high-security venues can

be vulnerable if feeding and perimeter management are not enforced.<sup>10</sup>

#### **IV. Bus stands/depots (including Inter-State Bus Terminals) and railway stations**

**21.** This Court also takes cognizance of numerous reported incidents of stray dog attacks at public transport hubs, including bus stands/depots (particularly Inter-State Bus Terminals) and railway stations across several States. These facilities, by reason of heavy public congregation, open architecture, and unhygienic waste disposal practices, have become focal points for stray dog habitation, resulting in repeated assaults/attacks on commuters, employees, and bystanders.

#### **Incidents:**

- At **Kannur Railway Station, Kerala**, a stray dog reportedly bit 18 people at the station (on the platform and near the ticket counter) and the animal was later confirmed to have rabies. News article further indicated that residents and

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<sup>10</sup> **Horrific! Stray dogs attack foreign coaches at World Para Athletics Championships, fifth such incident at JLN stadium; LINK:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/athletics/horrific-stray-dogs-attack-foreign-coaches-at-world-para-athletics-championships-fifth-such-incident-at-jln-stadium/articleshow/124300397.cms>.

commuters estimate the presence of over a hundred stray dogs in and around the station premises, resulting in a sustained risk to public health and passenger safety.<sup>11</sup>

- At **Dombivli Railway Station, Maharashtra**, a stray dog bit nine commuters, including a Railway Protection Force (RPF) Officer, on a foot over-bridge and platform.<sup>12</sup>
- At **Alappuzha Railway Station, Kerala**, more than 30 people were reported bitten by stray dogs in the past six months at the station premises.<sup>13</sup>
- At **Sambhal Railway Station, Uttar Pradesh**, a rabid/mad dog entered the railway station precinct and bit eight persons at different spots in about two hours.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> **Rabies confirmed in dog that bit 18 people at Kannur railway station; LINK:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2024/Nov/29/rabies-confirmed-in-dog-that-bit-18-people-at-kannur-railway-station>.

<sup>12</sup> **Stray dog bites commuters at Dombivli railway station; LINK:** <https://www.mid-day.com/mumbai/mumbai-news/article/stray-dog-bites-commuters-at-dombivli-railway-station-23596600>.

<sup>13</sup> **Over 30 people bitten by dogs at Alappuzha Railway Station in 6 months; LINK:** <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/over-30-people-bitten-by-dogs-at-alappuzha-railway-station-6-months-17c1a66c>.

<sup>14</sup> **Rabid dog bites eight people at city railway station; LINK:** <https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/sambhal-city-mad-dog-terrorizes-railway-station-injures-several-40014446.html>.

- At **Kannur Bus Stand, Kerala**, a stray dog attacked about 50 people, including at the bus-stand premises.<sup>15</sup>
- At **KSRTC Bus Stand, Kottayam, Kerala**, several people (including a former municipal chairperson) were injured in a stray dog attack that started around the bus stand and footpath routes mid-afternoon.<sup>16</sup>

**22.** The Court notes that the underlying causes of this enduring menace are multifaceted, including, **(i)** uncontrolled reproduction of stray dogs owing to inadequate implementation of sterilisation programmes; **(ii)** improper disposal of food waste in and around public institutions; **(iii)** absence of effective perimeter management and institutional coordination with municipal authorities; and **(iv)** lack of widespread public awareness regarding preventive conduct and post dog-bite medical procedures.

**23.** Despite the statutory framework of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001 as amended in 2023, and

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<sup>15</sup> **Stray dog attacks 50 people in Kannur town; LINK:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kozhikode/stray-dog-attacks-50-people-in-kannur-town/articleshow/121916268.cms>.

<sup>16</sup> **Stray dog attacks panic Kottayam bus stand, several injured. LINK:** <https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2025/08/21/stray-dog-attack-kottayam.html>.

the existence of various municipal bye-laws/guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures, the practical outcomes have remained suboptimal. The data emerging from several States and Union Territories reveal a year-on-year increase in reported dog-bite cases, many occurring within or near public institutions. The persistence of the problem calls for a holistic and coordinated approach involving municipal corporations, public health authorities, and administration of the institutions, to ensure that the constitutional mandate of safeguarding the right to life under Article 21 is not compromised by administrative inaction or inefficiency.

**24.** The menace of dog bites, particularly in public and private institutions that serve as spaces of learning, healing and recreation, thus constitutes not merely a public-health challenge but a matter of human safety concern. The State and its instrumentalities bear an affirmative obligation to ensure that no citizen, least of all children, elderly people and patients, are exposed to preventable injury or disease within public premises.



#### **IV. Directions**

**25.** Having regard to the alarming rise in incidents of dog bites within institutional areas such as educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands/depots (including Inter-State Bus Terminals) and railway stations, this Court deems it appropriate to issue the following directions in the interest of public safety, health, and management of stray dogs: -

**A.** The State Governments and Union Territories shall through their respective local/ municipal authorities, within a period of two weeks, identify all Government and private educational institutions, hospitals (including district hospitals, primary health centres, and medical colleges), public sports complexes or stadia, bus stands/depots (including Inter-State Bus Terminals) and railway stations situated within their territorial limits.

**B.** The administrative heads of the aforesaid institutions shall through their respective local/ municipal authorities, under the overall supervision of the District Magistrate concerned,

ensure that the premises are secured by adequate fencing, boundary walls, gates and such other structural or administrative measures as may be necessary to prevent the ingress of stray dogs. The said exercise shall be completed as soon as possible and preferably within a period of 8 weeks from today.

- C.** The management of every educational institution, hospital, sports complex, bus stand/depot (including Inter-State Bus Terminal) and railway station identified under **Direction (A)** shall designate a Nodal Officer responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of the premises and for ensuring that stray dogs do not enter or inhabit the campus. The details of the said officer shall be displayed prominently at the entrance and notified to the jurisdictional municipal body/authority.
- D.** The local municipal authorities and panchayats shall carry out regular inspections, at least once in every three months, of all such premises to ensure that no stray dog habitats exist within or in the immediate vicinity of these institutions. Any lapse in this regard shall be viewed seriously, and

responsibility shall be fixed upon the concerned municipal officials/administrative authorities.

**E.** It shall be the responsibility of the jurisdictional municipal body/authority to forthwith remove every stray dog found within the premises of an educational institution, hospital (public or private), sports complex, bus stand/depot (including Inter-State Bus Terminal) or railway station and to shift such animal/s to a designated shelter, after due sterilisation and vaccination, in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023. The stray dogs so picked up shall not be released back to the same location from which they were picked up. We have consciously directed the non-release of such stray dogs to the same location from which they were picked up, as permitting the same would frustrate the very effect of the directions issued to liberate such institutional areas from the presence of stray dogs.

**F.** All Government and private hospitals shall maintain a mandatory stock of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin at all times.

**G.** Every school and educational institution shall be directed by the Ministry of Education, Government

of India, to conduct awareness sessions for students and staff on preventive behaviour around animals, first-aid in case of bites, and immediate reporting protocols.

- H.** The management of stadiums and sports complexes shall ensure the deployment of security or ground-keeping personnel specifically tasked with around the clock vigil against the entry or habitation of stray dogs.
- I.** The railway authorities having jurisdiction over the railway stations as well as the State transport corporations and municipal authorities having jurisdiction over bus stands, depots and Inter-State Bus Terminals, shall ensure that such public-transport premises/facilities are effectively secured and maintained so as to prevent the habitation or movement of stray dogs within their premises. Proper waste-management systems shall be implemented to eliminate food sources that attract animals, and regular inspections shall be conducted to detect and address the presence of stray dogs.
- J.** Animal Welfare Board of India shall, within four weeks, issue detailed Standard Operating

Procedures (SOPs) for prevention of dog bites and management of stray dogs in institutional premises (public or private) including but not limited to Government and private educational institutions, hospitals (including district hospitals, primary health centres, and medical colleges), and sports complexes or stadia, to be uniformly adopted across all States and Union Territories.

**26.** The aforesaid directions are being issued in continuation of and in furtherance of this Court's order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2025, to ensure that the menace of stray dog attacks within institutional areas is curbed through effective preventive and administrative mechanisms. The primary objective is to safeguard the fundamental right to life and safety of citizens, particularly children, students, patients, and sportspersons, while ensuring compliance with the principles embodied in the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

**27.** The Registry shall forthwith circulate a copy of this order to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories for onward transmission to all the

necessary departments, as well as to the Secretaries of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; Ministry of Railways; Ministry of Panchayati Raj; Ministry of Rural Development; and Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, for immediate compliance.

**28.** The Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories shall file their affidavits of compliance before this Court within a period of 8 weeks from today, specifically indicating:

- i.** the steps taken to secure the premises of the educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands/depots (including Inter-State Bus Terminals) and railway stations;
- ii.** the mechanism put in place for regular oversight inspection, coordination and reporting with municipal authorities/Panchayati Raj institutions; and

- iii.** the availability of anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin in all Government medical facilities.

**29.** The Union of India shall also ensure that the aforesaid directions are implemented in respect of all institutional areas falling under its administrative or supervisory control, including Central Government educational institutions, hospitals, colleges, universities, sports complexes and railway stations managed by or affiliated with Central Ministries or authorities such as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; Ministry of Railways; Ministry of Panchayati Raj; Ministry of Rural Development and other allied departments. The Union of India, through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, shall file a comprehensive affidavit of compliance within a period of 8 weeks from today, indicating the steps taken to secure such institutions, the mechanism evolved for coordination with local/municipal authorities, and the measures adopted for ensuring the availability of

anti-rabies vaccines and immunoglobulin in Central Government hospitals and healthcare facilities.

**30.** Animal Welfare Board of India shall also file a consolidated report indicating the nationwide status of sterilisation and vaccination drives, as well as the formulation of uniform Standard Operating Procedures for the prevention of dog-bite incidents in institutional areas/premises within 8 weeks from today.

**31.** The Registry shall forthwith implead the Urban Development Department and Rural Development Department of all States and Union Territories as well as the Union of India through their Principal/Chief Secretaries.

**32.** Any reported non-compliance of any of the above directions shall be viewed very seriously and may invite penalties/consequences including but not limited to the initiation of *suo moto* contempt proceedings against the erring officials.

**33.** The matters shall be listed on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 for further directions and for perusal of the compliance affidavits to be filed by the Animal



Welfare Board of India, all the States and Union Territories and the Union of India.

.....J.  
(VIKRAM NATH)

.....J.  
(SANDEEP MEHTA)

.....J.  
(N. V. ANJARIA)

**NEW DELHI;  
NOVEMBER 07, 2025.**