



Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

Why in News

The [Supreme Court \(SC\)](#) has **asked the Centre to either withdraw or amend rules notified in 2017** for confiscating animals of traders and transporters during the pendency of trial in cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Key Points

▪ About the 2017 Rules:

- The **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017** have been framed under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
- The Rules **allow a Magistrate to forfeit the cattle of an owner facing trial under the Act**.
 - The animals are then **sent to infirmaries, animal shelters**, etc.
 - The authorities **can further give such animals for “adoption”**.

▪ SC's Observations:

- The Rules are plainly **contrary to Section 29 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act**, under which **only a person convicted of cruelty can lose his animal**.
- It **asked the government to either change the rule or face a stay** from the court.

▪ About the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:

- The legislative intent of the Act is to **“prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals”**.
- The **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Act.
- This Act **provides for punishment for causing unnecessary cruelty and suffering to animals**. The Act **defines animals and different forms of animals**.
- **Discusses different forms of cruelty, exceptions, and killing of a suffering animal** in case any cruelty has been committed against it, so as to relieve it from further suffering.
- Provides the **guidelines relating to experimentation on animals** for scientific purposes.
- The Act enshrines the provisions relating to the **exhibition of the performing animals**, and offences committed against the performing animals.
- This Act provides for the **limitation period of 3 months** beyond which no prosecution shall lie for any offences under this Act.

[Source: IE](#)

