



## Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023

**For Prelims:** [Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960](#), [Animal Welfare Board of India](#), [Rabies](#), [National Centre for Disease Control](#), [One Health](#).

**For Mains:** Status of Rabies India, Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023.

### Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has issued the **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**. These Rules supersede the **Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001**, and are issued under the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960](#).

### What are the Major Points Related to Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023?

- **Background:**
  - India recorded a whopping **160 million cases of street/stray dog bites between 2019 and 2022**, according to data submitted in [Parliament](#) till November 2022.
  - This has also led to an **increase in revenge crime and atrocities against dogs**, feeders of dogs and caregivers as well as conflicts among urban residents.
- **Provisions:**
  - The Rules have been formulated in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court related to [Animal Welfare Board of India](#) and **People for Elimination of Stray Troubles**.
    - The [Supreme Court](#) has specifically mentioned in various orders that **relocation of dogs cannot be permitted**.
  - The Rules aim to provide guidelines for the **sterilisation and immunisation of stray dogs** through **Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes**.
    - The responsibility of carrying out ABC programmes lies with the respective **local bodies, municipalities, municipal corporations, and panchayats**.
    - The Municipal Corporations are required to implement the **ABC and Anti Rabies Program jointly**.
  - It provides guidelines on **how to deal with human and stray dog conflicts** without relocating the dogs in an area.
  - It also **emphasises addressing the cruelty involved** in carrying out ABC programmes, **ensuring animal welfare**.

### Rabies

- **About:**
  - **Rabies** is a **vaccine-preventable, zoonotic, viral disease** affecting the central nervous system.
    - It is present on all **continents except Antarctica**, with over 95% of human deaths occurring in Asia and Africa.
- **Cause:**

- It is caused by a [Ribonucleic Acid \(RNA\) virus](#) that is present in the saliva of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).
- It is invariably transmitted following a bite of an infected animal that leads to **deposition of the saliva and the virus in the wound.**
  - **According to WHO**, Dogs are the main source of human rabies deaths, contributing up to **99% of all rabies transmissions to humans.**
- **Status in India:**
  - **India is endemic for rabies, and accounts for 36% of the world's rabies deaths.**
  - According to WHO, about **30-60% of reported rabies cases and deaths in India occur in children under the age of 15 years** as bites that occur in children often go unrecognised and unreported.
- **Treatment:**
  - Rabies can be prevented by **vaccinating pets, and seeking medical care after potential exposures before symptoms start.**
- **Initiatives Related to Rabies Control:**
  - **Global:**
    - **United Against Rabies Forum:** The **UAR Forum** brings together global experts from various organisations, ministries and countries so that they can work towards specific objectives and activities to facilitate efforts towards achieving **Zero dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030.**
  - **Indian:**
    - **National Action Plan for Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination by 2030 (NAPRE):** The NAPRE was drafted by the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** in association with the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.**
    - Its approach for elimination of rabies is based on recommendations of several international agencies like **WHO** and the [Global Alliance of Rabies Control \(GARC\)](#).

## Conclusion

India is looking forward to creating a [One Health network](#) that will not only **serve rabies but will also strengthen surveillance and health systems** for multiple health risks at the **human-animal-environment interface** through better coordination and communication between the animal- and human health and other relevant sectors.

[Source: PIB](#)

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