



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
FISHERIES & ARD DEPARTMENT

No. 3975 / FARD, Dt. 18/03/2020  
FARD-VP-3VP-003E/2017

From

Shri R. Raghu Prasad, IFS,  
Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt.

To

All Chief District Veterinary Officers.

**Sub: Create awareness to prevent abandoning of pets or inflicting cruelty in animals due to the fear of spread of COVID-19.**

Sir,

It has come to the notice that, animal owners and pet owners in few instances are abandoning their animals to stray without proper food, water or shelter due to the fear of spread of COVID-19. In this regards, World Health Organization (WHO) has clarified that dogs and cats are not involved in spreading infection in the current episode of Coronavirus Infection. The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission. To date, there is no evidence that companion animals can spread the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may compromise their welfare. Hence with the present information available, there is no evidence to suggest that companion animals/pets play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

In view of the above, you are requested to create ample awareness amongst the public that companion animals and pets shall not be left for straying and also not to inflict unnecessary pain or suffering to animals because of the fear of spread of COVID-19. However, it is always advisable to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals. These include washing hands after handling animals, their food, waste, or supplies and practicing good pet hygiene and cleaning up of pets properly.

Kindly treat this as most urgent.

Yours faithfully,

  
18/3/2020  
Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 3975 / FARD, Dt. 18/03/2020

Copy forwarded to All Collectors for Information and necessary action.

  
18.3.2020  
Additional Secretary to Govt.

Memo No. 3977 / FARD, Dt. 2020

Copy forwarded to Director AH&VS, Cuttack for information and necessary action.

  
Additional Secretary to Govt. 18.3.2020

Memo No. 3978 / FARD, Dt. 2020

Copy forwarded to PS to DC-cum-ACS and PS to APC-cum-ACS for kind information of DC-cum-ACS and APC-cum-ACS.

  
Additional Secretary to Govt. 18.3.2020

Memo No. 3979 / FARD, Dt. 2020

Copy forwarded to PS to Hon'ble Minister, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development for kind information of Hon'ble Minister.

  
Additional Secretary to Govt. 18.3.2020

Memo No. 3980 / FARD, Dt. 18/03/2020

Copy forwarded to Chairman, Animal Welfare Board, NIAW Campus, 42 Mile Stone, Delhi-Agra Highway, NH-2, Ballabgarh, Faridabad-121004 for kind information.

  
Additional Secretary to Govt. 18.3.2020