



## भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
(पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग)

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India  
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)

No.9- 1/2021-2022/PCA

Date: 21.05.2021

To,

All the Chief Secretaries of States/UT's

**Subject: Allocation of funds for feeding community animals and recognition of veterinary service providers, animal activities and animal feeders as frontline workers-reg.**

Sir,

With reference to the above cited subject, it has come to the notice of the Board that there has been a sharp increase in the number of community animals in dire need of food, because of current pandemic situation and due to curfew restrictions in several states, have resulted in hindrance for most people to feed animals which may lead to starvation and decreased immunity among animals and they may become susceptible to infectious diseases in animals. Also, the animal welfare workers and organization working in the field of animal welfare, which are involved in the rescuing of animals, feeding and treatment of animals and they are exposed directly or indirectly to the threat of getting infected to the coronavirus during this pandemic period.

2. In this regard, it is stated that the animal welfare activist, lover and veterinarians are risking their lives while rescuing and taking care of the animals. They are also required to travel to nearby areas or veterinary clinic for treatment of the injured or sick animals to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering to animals but have not been designated as the frontline worker.

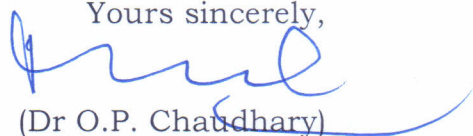
3. It is pertinent to mention that most of the States and UTs in compliance to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MFAHD) letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021, have already included veterinary services under "essential services". However, there is also a need to designate veterinarians, para-veterinarians, animal welfare workers, organization in the field of animal welfare and community animal feeders as frontline worker for receiving priority vaccinations, treatment, health insurance, and other benefits so as to ensure the uninterrupted supply of essential veterinary care and other animal welfare services to the animals.

4. Further, it is stated that the Veterinary Council of India, through a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021(copy enclosed) has already requested that MFAHD include veterinarians as frontline worker. Also, the Government of Odisha has allotted Rs. 54.00 Lakh last year and Rs. 60.00 lakh this year from the Chief Minister's relief fund for feeding community animals.

5. Therefore, in view of the above, it is requested to kindly allocate sufficient funds for the feeding of community animals and ensure the effective distribution of food to community animals, including dogs, cats, and birds. Also, it is requested to include the veterinarians, para-veterinarians, animal activities and animal feeders as frontline workers to ensure the uninterrupted supply of veterinary care and animal welfare service to all the animals. A copy of the action taken report be forwarded to the Board for information and record.

**“Please treat this as most urgent”.**

*With Regards,*

Yours sincerely,  
  
(Dr O.P. Chaudhary)  
Chairman

CC for information and necessary action:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi -110001; Email: [hshso@nic.in](mailto:hshso@nic.in)
2. The Director, National Centre of Disease Control, New Delhi-110054; Email: [dirnicd@nic.in](mailto:dirnicd@nic.in)
3. The Chairman, AWBI



उपमन्यु बसु  
संयुक्त सचिव  
**UPAMANYU BASU**  
Joint Secretary



भारत सरकार  
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी मंत्रालय  
पशुपालन एवं डेयरी विभाग  
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001  
Government of India  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying  
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

DO. No. K-13013 (15)/18/2020-LH

25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

*Dear Sir / Madam,*

As you are aware, the Covid 19 pandemic continues unabated and in the wake of the recent situation in the country, states are resorting to restricting movement of goods and people in order to cut transmission of the disease. However, certain exemptions have been mentioned under 'essential services' that includes hospitals.

However, it may be recalled that the list of essential services was extended to veterinary hospitals by MHA in their order of 25 March 2020 (copy enclosed). Further, you may also recall that an advisory to States/UTs, dated 23 March 2020, was issued by the Department (copy enclosed) wherein it was emphasized that in view of the necessity of ensuring continuous emergency services in the animal husbandry and veterinary health sector, especially in emergent animal health situations, these may include, but not restricted to, animal disease diagnosis and treatment, monitoring of emergency livestock and poultry diseases, immediate disease reporting, etc.

It was requested that veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the State including private veterinary clinics, veterinary pathologies, animal shelters, etc. function in the normal course and veterinary services be included in 'Essential Services'. As similar situation prevails in the country, this request is reiterated. However, all Covid 19 norms, including compulsory wearing face masks, maintaining physical distance and personal hygiene must be maintained.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*Upamanyu Basu*  
(Upamanyu Basu)

*Encl: aa*

Chief Secretaries (all States) / Administrators (all UTs)

Copy to –

ACS/Principal Secretary/ Secretary Animal Husbandry Department (all States/UTs)

उपमन्यु बसु  
संयुक्त सचिव  
UPAMANYU BASU  
Joint Secretary



भारत सरकार  
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी मंत्रालय  
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कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001  
Government of India  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying  
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

D.O No. K-13013(15)/18/2020-LH

Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

As you may be aware, due to the ongoing steps to control and contain the COVID 19 pandemic, many states have gone for complete lockdown to check spread of the virus. It is necessary to ensure continuous emergency services in the animal husbandry and veterinary sector, especially in emergent animal health situations. These may include, but are not restricted to, emergency services like disease diagnosis and treatment, monitoring of any emergency livestock and poultry diseases, immediate disease reporting, etc.

Accordingly, it is requested that veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the state, including private veterinary clinics, veterinary pathologies, animal shelters etc. function in the normal course and the veterinary services be considered in the list of 'Essential Services'.

However, veterinarians and related officials should ensure strict personal hygiene and avoid public gathering.

*Best regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*Upamanyu Basu*  
(Upamanyu Basu)

Chief Secretary of All States and UTs.

Copy to:

Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretaries of Animal Husbandry for All States and Union Territories



डॉ. उमेश चन्द्र शर्मा  
**Dr. Umesh Chandra Sharma**  
अध्यक्ष, वी.सी.आई.  
President, VCI



**भारतीय पशु चिकित्सा परिषद्**  
**Veterinary Council of India**

(भारत सरकार का वैधानिक निकाय)  
(Statutory body of the Government of India)  
'ए' विंग, दूसरी मंजिल, अगस्त क्रान्ति भवन,  
'A' Wing, 2nd Floor, August Kranti Bhawan  
भीकाजी कामा प्लेस, नई दिल्ली-११००६६  
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066  
फोन/Ph. : 011 26182434, मो./M. : 09826294714  
ईमेल/E-mail : presidentvci@gmail.com

D.O. No.8-1/2021-VCI/ 598

Dated 28 April, 2021

*Respected sir,*

The global COVID-19 pandemic has imposed sudden and unprecedented pressures on governments and industries around the world and continuing doing so for more than a year by now. In this unprecedented crisis all sectors including Veterinary Services and Animal Husbandry are affected in many ways. During the nationwide lockdown animal health care was rightly considered as an essential service and Veterinary doctors continued to provide public service risking their life even when most of the other public services were completely shut down. It is worthy to mention that agricultural sector with the impetus of veterinary sector had a positive growth rate of around 3.4% of GDP and Milk is the largest commodity that recovered fastest during unlock-phases. I would also like to bring to your kind notice that in addition to rendering their normal duties, veterinarians also provided their invaluable services in the following fields.

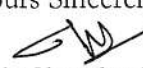
- i. Veterinarians engaged in some premier veterinary laboratories having RT PCR facilities have used their experience and expertise to support the diagnostic capacity of human health services during COVID-19 pandemic by testing of human samples.
- ii. Veterinarians had rendered their service as front line workers in COVID-19 quarantine stations, contact tracing, Sub- division level vaccine monitoring teams and other activities as and when required by the respective district administration.

All the above mentioned works exposed the veterinarians to risk of contracting the disease and few of them had lost their life while rendering their duties in the COVID pandemic. While other government servants like administration and police personnel, municipality workers, who renders service during the pandemic are considered as front line workers (FLWs), pitifully veterinarians are never recognized as FLWs in spite of helping the nation with all their might.

In view of the above, I would like to request your good self to do the needful for issuing directions to recognize veterinarians as front line workers and extend all the benefits of the same to veterinarians engaged in COVID-19 duties.

*With kind regards,*

Yours Sincerely,

  
(Dr. Umesh Chandra Sharma)  
President, VCI

28.04.2021

To,  
Shri Atul Chaturvedi ji,  
Secretary,  
Animal Husbandry and Dairying,  
Government of India,  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.