

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

Introduction of Animal Act-1960

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, was enacted by the Government of India to prevent unnecessary pain, suffering, and cruelty inflicted on animals.

Need for the Act:

- Before this Act, there were no specific and structured laws for animal welfare in India.
- Animals were often subjected to abuse, exploitation, and neglect in various industries, including research laboratories, transport, entertainment, and agriculture.
- Rising concerns among animal welfare activists led to the formulation of this Act to ensure humane treatment of animals.

Scope of the Act:

- Protects all animals (domestic, wild, and captive).
- Applies to individuals, institutions, and organizations that handle or experiment on animals.
- Establishes mechanisms for supervision, regulation, and enforcement.

Objectives of the Act (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960)

The Act has the following objectives:

1. Prevent Cruelty and Suffering:

- Ensure animals are treated **humanely** and not subjected to unnecessary **pain, injuries, or death**.

2. Promote Animal Welfare:

- Encourage the development of **animal welfare organizations** and provide them with **legal powers** to enforce laws.

3. Regulate Experiments on Animals:

- Control the use of animals in **scientific research** and **experiments** to ensure **ethical practices**.

4. Encourage Humane Treatment:

- Promote awareness and establish rules for **proper housing, transportation, breeding, and handling** of animals.

5. Enforce Punishments for Violators:

- Provide **penalties and imprisonment** for violations, deterring cruelty and negligence.

6. Establish a Governing Body:

- Set up the **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** to supervise and promote **animal welfare programs**.

Definitions (Section 2) Under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

Key definitions provided in the Act include:

1. Animal:

- Refers to any **living creature** other than a **human being**. This includes **domestic animals, wild animals, and birds**.

2. Owner:

- Any person who **owns, possesses, or takes care of** an animal, either temporarily or permanently.

3. Cruelty:

- Any act that causes **unnecessary pain or suffering** to an animal, whether through **beating, overloading, neglect, or inhumane experiments**.

4. Experiment:

- A **scientific procedure** conducted on an animal for the purpose of **research, teaching, testing, or demonstration**.

5. Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI):

- A **statutory advisory body** formed under the Act to **protect animals** and promote **animal welfare programs**.

6. Institution:

- A hospital, college, university, or laboratory where animals are used for scientific purposes.

Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC)

What is IAEC?

- The Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) is a mandatory regulatory body within every research institution that uses animals for experiments.
- It is governed by the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA).

Purpose of IAEC:

- The Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) is responsible for monitoring and regulating the use of animals in scientific research and experiments.

Composition of IAEC:

- Must consist of a **minimum of 5 members**, including:
 1. **Chairperson** (appointed by the institution).
 2. **Biological Scientist** (with expertise in animal research).
 3. **Veterinarian** (to oversee animal health and care).
 4. **Social Worker/Activist** (from an NGO or animal welfare organization).
 5. **Scientist from a Different Discipline** (to ensure objectivity).

Functions of IAEC:

1. Approval of Research Proposals:

- Evaluate and approve research protocols involving animal use.

2. Ethical Oversight:

- Ensure all experiments follow ethical guidelines and minimize animal suffering.

3. Inspection and Monitoring:

- Conduct regular inspections of facilities to verify compliance with guidelines.

4. Reporting to CPCSEA:

- Submit periodic reports to the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA).

CPCSEA Guidelines for Breeding and Stocking of Animals

- The Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) is a statutory body established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act to regulate animal experimentation and ensure animal welfare in scientific institutions.

Key Guidelines:

1. Registration

- Institutions breeding animals must register with CPCSEA.
- Breeding is allowed only for approved species (e.g., rats, mice, guinea pigs, rabbits).
- Breeding centers must meet CPCSEA standards for hygiene, record-keeping, and veterinary care.

2. Housing and Maintenance

- Animals must be provided with adequate space, clean environment, and nutrition.

- Ventilation, lighting, and temperature control must be maintained.
- Proper caging systems and sanitation protocols are required.

3. Veterinary Care

- Access to qualified veterinarians for regular health checkups.
- Immediate care for injured or ill animals must be ensured.
- Veterinarians should continuously monitor animal health and provide necessary medical care.

4. Stocking and Identification

- Avoid overcrowding in enclosures.
- Animals should be tagged or marked properly for identification.
- Maintain records of births, deaths, transfers, and acquisitions.

5. Record Keeping

- Maintain breeding records, health records, and usage logs.
- Submit quarterly reports to CPCSEA.

6. Transportation Guidelines

- Animals should be transported with minimal stress and adequate ventilation.

7. Periodic Inspections

- CPCSEA or its nominees can conduct unannounced inspections to ensure compliance.

Performance of Experiments

CPCSEA Guidelines for Performance of Animal Experiments

The **Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA)** mandates strict regulations for conducting experiments on animals to ensure ethical use, scientific justification, and humane treatment.

A. Approval Requirement

- No experiments should be performed without prior approval from CPCSEA or the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC).

B. Purpose of Experiments

- Experiments must serve **scientific, educational, or regulatory goals**.
- They must not involve unnecessary repetition or trivial objectives.
- Scientific justification must be provided, and experiments should be conducted only when no alternative methods (e.g., computer simulations, cell culture) are available.



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