

## **Supreme Court's Order on Stray Dogs**

**Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance

## Why in News?

The Supreme Court recently ordered the removal of stray dogs immediately from public places and relocate them to a designated shelter, after due sterilization and vaccination in accordance with the animal birth control rules.

- Supreme Court's Direction To be implemented uniformly across India with status compliance certificates within a period of 8 weeks.
- It specified that the stray dogs so picked up shall not be released back to the same location from which they were picked up.
- Reason India's is one of the world's largest populations of cats and dogs.
- India's stray animal crisis has become a serious public health issue.
- The 2025 report by The State of Pet Homelessness Project estimates that the country has 100.09 million cats and dogs, including 85.61 million dogs and 14.48 million cats.
- The majority of this population, 71% of India's dogs and 61% of India's cats are homeless.
- The Union Health Ministry recorded 3.7 million dog bite cases in 2024 alone. According to official data, **99% of rabies deaths** in India are **caused by dog bites**.
- Rabies, if untreated, is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear, leading to either the furious or paralytic forms of the disease.
- Legal Framework in India India's current legal framework for managing street animals is the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023.
- The rules require local bodies including municipalities and panchayats to carry out sterilization and vaccination programs for stray dogs and cats through organizations.
- Vaccination programs are approved by the <u>Animal Welfare Board of</u> <u>India (AWBI).</u>
- The process must be humane, ensuring no cruelty during capture,

surgery, or release.

- The policy follows the <u>"Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return" (CNVR)</u> <u>method</u> which prohibits relocating animals outside their original areas to maintain ecological balance and reduce aggression among packs.
- The rules also outline minimum standards for Animal Birth Control Centres, including adequate kennel capacity and access to veterinary hospitals managed by local authorities or animal welfare groups.

## Reference

The Indian Express | India's stray animal crisis

