



ABSTRACT

Animal Husbandry Department – “Policy for Regulation of Pet Boarding facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu” – Orders – Issued.

Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare (AH3-2) Department

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2057, விசுவாரசு வருடம், மாசி மாதம் 13-ஆம் நாள்

G.O.(Ms)No. 44

Dated: 25.02.2026

Read:

1. W.P.No.12709 & 12710/2024 filed by Thiru. Antony Clement Rubin and Thiru. M. Vignesh.
2. Orders of Hon'ble High Court of Madras dated 03.06.2024 in W.P.No.12709 & 12710/2024.
3. From the Member Secretary/Director, Office of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai-35, letter No. Roc No.027792/TNAWB/ 2024, dated 26.11.2024 and 09.01.2026.

ORDER:

Tvl. Antony Clement Rubin and Tvl. M. Vignesh have filed a Writ Petition Nos.12709 and 12710 of 2024 before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras with a prayer to consider the representation dated 15.02.2024 and to further direct the respondents to create a separate set of regulations under Section 38(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 regarding pet boarding facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu.

2. In the order second read above, the Hon'ble High Court of Madras has directed that "the respondents authorities to consider the representations of the petitioners dated 15.02.2024 and pass orders on merits and in accordance with law, within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt at a copy of this order".

3. In pursuance of the above direction, the Member Secretary/Director, Office of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai in the letter third read above has sent necessary proposal to the Government and requested to frame the policy for Regulation of Pet Boarding facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu.

4. The Government after careful examination of the above proposal, accept the same and approved the " Policy for Regulation of Pet Boarding facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu" as annexed to this order.

5. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board/ Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services is requested to notify the "Policy for Regulation of Pet Boarding facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu" in the Tamil Nadu State Government Gazette (Extraordinary) and upload the same in the public domain with immediate effect.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

N. SUBBAIYAN,
Secretary to Government

To
The Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services,
Chennai-35.
The Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board,
Chennai - 35.
The Works Manager, Government Central Press,
Chennai - 600 001.
The National Informatics Centre, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.
Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency, Chennai - 2.
Copy to:
The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for
Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry,
Chennai - 9.
The Private Secretary to the Secretary to Government,
Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare Department, Chennai -09.
Stock file / Spare copies.

//Forwarded by Order//


25/2/26
Section Officer

N.P.
25/2/26.

ANNEXURE

Annexure to G.O.(Ms).No. 44, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, dated: 25.02.2026.

"Policy for Regulation of Pet Boarding facilities in the State of Tamil Nadu"

1. Preamble

Recognizing the need to protect animals kept in commercial facilities; this policy sets clear and uniform standards to ensure their health, safety, and overall welfare. Based on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the policy aims to:

1. Safeguard the physical and psychological well-being of animals housed or handled in these facilities.
2. Ensure accountability and transparency among service providers through registration, licensing, and record-keeping.
3. Promote ethical practices in boarding, training, and grooming.
4. Empower the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) to inspect, regulate, and enforce compliance.

2. Vision

To make Tamil Nadu a model state in India for humane, ethical, and professional standards in the boarding, training, and grooming of animals.

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy shall apply to the following categories of establishments operating within the State of Tamil Nadu:

- Commercial boarding facilities that house or provide temporary accommodation for dogs, cats, or any other domestic animals, including those run by rescuers, NGOs, or private operators. **Dog training establishments** and all professional dog trainers engaged in training, behavior modification, or related services for dogs, whether operating independently or as part of a larger facility. **Pet grooming centers** provide grooming, bathing, trimming, nail clipping, and related care services for dogs and cats.

4. Definitions

- **Boarding facility:** A place where pet animals are temporarily kept and cared for in exchange for payment.
- **Training facility:** A place where professional dog trainers provide behavioral or obedience training.
- **Grooming facility:** A place providing bathing, trimming, cleaning, or similar cosmetic care.
- **Pet parent:** The owner or person having custody of the animal.

5. Objectives

- A. Ensure humane care, safety, and welfare of animals in the boarding, training, and grooming facility.
- B. Establish standards for infrastructure, operation, staffing, veterinary care, and record-keeping.
- C. Prevent cruelty, neglect, and exploitation.
- D. Ensure transparency and accountability.
- E. Regulate adoption and prevent abandonment.

PART A: BOARDING FACILITIES

6. Registration and Licensing

- a) All boarding facilities must be registered with the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) as per Dog breeding and marketing rules 2017.
- b) A valid registration certificate must be prominently displayed at the facility.
- c) Registrations must be renewed every two years to maintain operational status.
- d) Facilities must maintain updated records as per the rules.

7. General Conditions

Operational eligibility criteria

- Only commercial establishments can operate a boarding center.
- They must have a commercial electricity board (EB) connection.
- They must possess a Shops and Establishments certificate.
- Home boarding is not allowed.
- Boarding facilities must collect and maintain complete details of pet owners, including Aadhaar card, permanent address, contact number, and email ID.
- Owners are required to provide up-to-date vaccination certificates and disclose the current health status of each animal upon boarding.
- Vet hospitals and clinics treat sick animals regularly, so they are not safe places for boarding healthy dogs and cats.

CCTV:

- CCTV cameras must be installed and working across the entire boarding facility, including cameras at entry and exit points. Footage must be stored for at least 45 days.

Payment:

- A minimum and maximum payment structure must be established based on the services provided.

Breeding:

- Breeding is strictly prohibited, and the boarding facility must not operate as a breeding kennel under any circumstances. Failure to comply will result in strict action, including but not limited to closure.

Sedation:

- No sedatives to suppress noise or induce sleep.

8. Adoption & Abandonment

• **Temporary Boarding:** Boarding facilities must have clear policies for rescuers who leave animals temporarily, detailing the terms of stay and who is responsible for the animal during this period.

- **Adoption Policy for Abandoned Animals:** Legal action and penalties will be applied if animals are not taken back within the agreed time. If the boarding facility finds the owner unsuitable to care for the animal, the pet can be given up for adoption.
- Before putting a dog up for adoption, the boarding facility must send an email notice to the owner at least 15 days in advance. After this period, the dog becomes eligible for adoption. Adoption can proceed only after the dog has been neutered (ABC done), and the adopter's full details must be collected, including Aadhaar card, permanent address, contact number, and email ID.

9. Kennel & Infrastructure Standards

- Dogs must at all times be kept in suitable accommodation, meeting standards for construction, kennel size, number of dogs per enclosure, exercise space, proper temperature control, lighting, ventilation, and overall cleanliness.
- Kennels must meet specific size requirements to ensure the comfort and welfare of the animals. For regular pet animals weighing up to 50 kg, a minimum of 36 sq ft per dog must be provided. For small dogs, the kennel size should be between 24–36 sq ft, and for large dogs, above 36 sq ft. Facilities housing 10 dogs must ensure a total kennel area of at least 1,800 sq ft (36 sq ft × 50 kg capacity).
- Flooring must be safe, durable, and easy to clean to maintain hygiene.
- Proper fencing must be provided, and double-door entry systems should be installed to ensure the safety and security of the animals.
- **A play or exercise area** must be available to allow dogs regular outdoor activity, socialization, and mental stimulation, supporting their overall health and well-being.
- The boarding facility must be fumigated every 15 days using pet-safe disinfectants. A record of the date, disinfectant used, and the person in charge must be maintained.

10. Special Care for Cold-Climate Breeds

- Boarding facilities must provide specialized environments suitable for cold-climate breeds, including effective temperature control and proper ventilation to ensure their comfort and well-being.
- Special attention should be given to breeds with double coats and thick fur, and facilities must accommodate their specific needs.
- Several breeds already present in the region require specific care due to their size, coat type, or sensitivity to heat. These include:
 - Basset Hound
 - French Bulldog
 - Alaskan Malamute
 - Chow Chow
 - Keeshond
 - Newfoundland
 - Norwegian Elkhound
 - Tibetan Mastiff
 - Siberian Husky
 - Saint Bernard
 - Pug

11. Veterinary Care and Food Stock

- A veterinarian must be available on call. And their contact details should be displayed at the facility.
- A monthly health check must be conducted by the consultant veterinarian, and detailed records of each visit must be maintained.
- Emergency medical supplies should also be kept at the facility at all times, under the guidance of the veterinarian.
- A minimum of 7 days' food stock must be kept at the facility at all times.

12. Staffing And Care

- Boarding facilities must employ adequate cleaning staff and animal handlers.
- Night shifts must be adequately staffed to ensure that animals receive care and supervision at all times, including during overnight hours.
- Sufficient trained staff must be employed to handle and care for the animals properly.

13. Record Maintenance and Documentation

• Food Stock Records:

- a) Accurate records of food stock levels must be kept, ensuring that at least 7-7-days supply of food (wet or dry) is always available.

• Medical and Treatment Records:

- a) Emergency medical supplies and essential medicines must always be stocked and maintained under the guidance of a veterinarian.

b) Relevant medical records and vaccination certificates for all animals at the facility must be properly maintained and kept up to date.

c) Detailed records of any treatments administered to the animals must be kept.

d) A log of any animal deaths must be maintained, along with supporting documents such as FIR copies and post-mortem reports, where applicable.

- **Adoption Records:** Detailed records must be maintained for each adopter and for the adoption process if any dog is given up for adoption.

- **Pet Parent / Rescuer Details:** Full details of pet parents and rescuers must be recorded and kept on file, including Aadhaar number, contact details, permanent address, and email ID.

- **Animal Details:** Updated records must be maintained for all animals boarded at the facility, including those currently boarded and those previously boarded or kept for adoption.

14. Animal Death Protocol

- If an animal dies while in the care of the boarding facility, a post-mortem must be conducted. With the pet parent's consent, the facility may coordinate with TANUVAS or any Animal Husbandry Department veterinarian to carry out the post-mortem
- The post-mortem report must then be submitted to the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) for transparent review.

15. Missing Animal Procedure

- If an animal goes missing from the facility, the boarding centre must provide CCTV footage of the relevant period to help trace the animal and ensure accountability.
- The boarding facility shall take full responsibility, and strict action will be taken, including legal proceedings and a fine of ₹10,000.

16. Consequences for Non-Compliance

- If any of the prescribed criteria are not met, the boarding facility may face penalties, including suspension or permanent closure after a due enquiry.
- Strict measures shall be enforced for repeat offenders, including the immediate closure of non-compliant facilities.

17. Accountability

- Boarding facilities are fully responsible for the health, safety, and overall care of animals under their supervision.
- Pet parents must also provide the complete medical history of their animals, including the name and contact details of their veterinarian, who can be reached on call.
- If an animal falls ill while at the facility, it is the responsibility of the boarding facility to ensure prompt medical care, maintain accurate

treatment records, and inform the pet parents immediately and transparently.

18. Regular Inspections and Audits

- Regular inspections by officers appointed by the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) shall be conducted to verify compliance with the policy guidelines.
- Any violations, negligence, or instances of animal cruelty shall result in revocation of licenses and legal action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

PART B: TRAINING FACILITIES

19. Registration & Licensing

- All professional dog trainers must register with the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) to practice legally.
- Trainers must obtain a valid license from TNAWB, which will be renewable based on periodic evaluations and adherence to welfare standards.

20. Professional Standards

- Trainers must not operate as boarders or breeders. They should hold separate licenses for each activity to ensure clear and distinct professional roles.

21. Qualification

- Trainers must undergo certified courses in animal behaviour, welfare, and training techniques, accredited by recognized institutions.
- Proof of completion of such training programs should be mandatory during the licensing process.
- Trainers must complete a course offered by the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) as part of their certification process. The board will provide this training to ensure compliance with ethical standards and animal welfare practices.

22. Ethical Training

- Training methods must prioritize the physical and emotional well-being of dogs, avoiding any form of cruelty, coercion, or negative reinforcement techniques such as shock collars, prong collars, or physical punishment.
- Positive reinforcement and reward-based training should be emphasized in the guidelines
- Trainers should follow a strict code of conduct, which includes respect for animal welfare laws, professionalism in handling dogs, and ensuring that no harm comes to the dogs during training.

- Immediate referral to veterinary care should be made for any dog showing signs of illness or injury during training.

23. Regular Inspections and Audits

- Regular inspections shall be conducted by officers appointed by the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) to verify compliance with policy guidelines.

- Any violations, instances of negligence, or animal cruelty must result in the revocation of licenses and legal action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

24. Transparency and Reporting

- Trainers are required to submit periodic reports to the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB), detailing the number of dogs trained, the details of each dog's owner, the medical condition and vaccination status of each dog under training, and the training methods used.

PART C: GROOMING FACILITIES

25. Registration and Licensing

- All grooming centers must register with the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) and prominently display the valid registration certificate at the facility.
- Registrations must be renewed every two years to maintain operational status.
- If a boarding centre also offers grooming services, it must obtain separate registrations for boarding and grooming activities to comply with regulatory requirements.
- Grooming centres must have proper commercial registrations, including GST registration, Shops and Establishment certificate, and a commercial electricity (EB) connection.

26. Staffing and Qualification

- All groomers employed at the grooming centre must hold a grooming course completion certificate from a recognized and reputable grooming academy.

27. Welfare Standards

- Grooming facilities must ensure the humane and safe handling of animals at all times to prevent injury, stress, or harm.
- Maintain proper sanitation, including routine disinfection of equipment and work areas.

- Use safe and appropriate methods for bathing, drying, and grooming, avoiding practices that may cause discomfort or distress to animals.
- All grooming centers must install CCTV cameras and maintain CCTV footage for a minimum period of 45 days.
- As grooming involves the use of blowers that produce heat, all grooming centers must be equipped with adequate air conditioning to ensure the comfort and safety of the animals.
- It is recommended that all grooming areas have a transparent window or viewing panel so that pet parents can observe the grooming process, ensuring pets are handled safely and professionally.
- Tail docking and ear cropping are banned under pet shop rules and must not be practiced or promoted.

28. Accountability

- Grooming facilities are fully responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of animals under their care.
- Owners must be promptly informed in case an animal becomes ill or injured while at the facility.
- Facilities must maintain an updated history of animals serviced, including the contact details of the consulting veterinarian available for emergency care.

29. Inspections & Audits

- Regular inspections shall be conducted by officers appointed by the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) to ensure compliance with policy standards.
- Non-compliance may result in penalties, suspension, or cancellation of the grooming centre's license.
- Any violations of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, will attract strict legal action.

30. Records to be maintained by Grooming Facilities

- **Animal Register** – Details of each animal groomed: breed, age, sex, identifying features, and date of service.
- **Owner Details** – Name, Aadhaar/ID, contact number, address, and email ID.
- **Health Status** – Vaccination status, allergies, and any existing medical conditions as provided by the owner.
- **Service Log** – Type of grooming service, date, and name of the staff who performed it.
- **Incident & Treatment Records** – Any illness, injury, or veterinary care provided during or after grooming.

- **Veterinarian Contact** – Details of the consulting veterinarian for emergencies.

31. Conclusion

This policy aims to establish Tamil Nadu as a model for regulated, humane, and professional care of companion animals, balancing welfare standards with the needs of pet owners and service providers.

N. SUBBAIYAN
Secretary to Government

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Section Officer

N.P.
25/2/22