



The Indian Journal for Research in Law and Management

Open Access Law Journal – Copyright © 2024

Editor-in-Chief – Prof. (Dr.) Muktai Deb Chavan; Publisher – Alden Vas; ISSN: 2583-9896

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ANIMAL RIGHTS AND CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT

Cruelty against animals means doing certain things which make them suffer pain or ill-treatment to them. Animal includes any living being other than humans. In India, animal cruelty laws are made under the act which is called

‘The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960’ which includes all the rights and punishment for those who commit atrocities to animals. Law enforcement agencies, animal welfare workers, and individuals who provide care for animals are empowered to pursue criminals under the provisions of the PCA Act, of 1960. Section 11 of the Act covers all acts of cruelty as far as animal welfare regulations are concerned. The PCA Act, 1960 Section 11 addresses the different abuses and crimes committed against both domesticated and wild animals.

This was the first legislation in India, which was made to save animals from harsh treatment but there is no proper implementation of it due to which many incidents have happened, and that had been called amendments which have been taking place since 2012. The PCA Act, 1960 contains a number of measures that completely protect animals from cruelty, although they are mostly regarded as antiquated and have light punishments.

‘Dog hanged to death in Ghaziabad’, ‘Boys burn alive 3 puppies, another shoots dead a dog’, ‘Dog clubbed to death by 3 youths “for sleeping under the boat” at Adimalathura Beach’, are just some of the many such headlines we have seen in the print and electronic media in recent times. More recently, reports of a heinous act in Delhi shocked us: ‘Pregnant street dog beaten to death by Delhi students, dragged across the field.’¹ There was a recent incident that took place in 2023 in the state of Punjab in which, there was a dog who had his pups living on the streets and the people in that colony used to feed them. One night, people heard their voices which were not usual, and rushed to see what was happening. When they went there, they saw that only the bodies of the animals were left and someone has cut their heads off. These incidents are taking place in various places in India, most of them go unreported or did not even reach the eyes of the media.

Also during the pandemic which took place 2020, many people abandoned their pets which is also cruel to them. People should also care about the animals, if not, they should at least not harm them for their own enjoyment or whatever purpose they have.

ALOKPARNA SENGUPTA AND SHREYA PAROPKARI, Will India finally update its Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act? Will India finally update its Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act?, JULY 18, 2023; <https://theleaflet.in/will-india-finally-update-its-prevention-of-cruelty-to-animals-act/>

So, there is a need to amend some provisions and make them more stringent because animals are also living beings, they also have life, and to play with it is also a heinous crime. So, it should be treated as the same as major incidents.

There was a case of *Sankalp Santosh Golatkar v. Union of India & Ors* (2020) filed in the Supreme Court to modify the penal provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. This petition states that over 24,000 cases of cruelty to animals have been registered under the Act from 2012 to 2015. The petitioner has also mentioned the illegal consumption of dog meat that is mostly followed in northeast states. According to the data provided in the petition, every year around 30,000 stray and stolen dogs are brutally killed for their meat in northeastern states like Mizoram and Nagaland.

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Reports show that on average at least one animal is abused every minute while over 100 million animals face mutilation every year. Animals are subjected to stone pelting, kicking, rapes, murder, poisoning, and a number of unimaginable and heinous means of torture on a regular basis but the laws pertaining to the benefit of these animals see little to no change.³ So I conclude that, Because the present sanctions for animal abuse are too light to prevent abuse, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, is out of date and does not protect animals. Animals employed for scientific purposes are not subject to considerations of cruelty. There are no rules governing the raising of farm animals, as evidenced by the unregulated urban dairy systems that are expanding quickly and have low welfare standards.

A meager maximum fine of fifty or one hundred rupees was placed into the statute more than fifty years ago, and it sorely needs to be changed with the times. As a result, India needs tougher animal protection regulations to avoid cruelties.

Consequently, the government needs to make sure that those who mistreat animals face lengthy prison sentences and stricter enforcement of India's animal protection legislation.

blogiplayers, Punishment for animal cruelty and laws for animal welfare in India; [https://²
blog.iplayers.in/punishment-animal-cruelty-laws-animal-welfare-india/](https://blog.iplayers.in/punishment-animal-cruelty-laws-animal-welfare-india/)

Siddhskhurana, Protection of Strays under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; [https://³
www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-7070-protection-of-strays-under-the-prevention-of-cruelty-to-animals-act-1960.html](https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-7070-protection-of-strays-under-the-prevention-of-cruelty-to-animals-act-1960.html)